FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AGREEMENT ON TROOP DATA REPORTEDLY REACHED IN VIENNA

LD242332Y Moscow in Polish to Pland 1700 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Correspondent Andrey Sokolov report on Vienna force reduction talks]

[Text] Journalists at the Vienna Hofburg Palace talk more frequently now of positive aspects of the negotiations. This is linked with news that agreement was reached at the negotiations concerning additional data on numbers of forces in central Europe. Due to the confidential character of the negotiations, journalists were not informed of the agreement's details. However, it is known the participants consider the agreement to be a positive move.

The socialist countries have always maintained that the mutual exchange and discussion of numerical data is of secondary importance. The main task is to achieve agreement on an equal, mutual and real reduction of forces by all participants in the negotiations. The West, on the other hand, considers the problem of numerical data to be the cause of dissatisfaction, and--opposing the generally agreed upon approximate balance in the forces of West and East in central Europe--the representatives of Western states allege that the Warsaw Pact states have considerable superiority in armed forces.

The mutual exchange of numerical data convincingly shows the complete groundlessness of this assumption. Thus, the entire Western scheme for asymmetric reduction--according to which socialist countries should reduce the number of their forces by nearly three times the number of the NATO states--has been abolished. As a result of such a reduction the West would achieve considerable military superiority. This Western attitude has been decidedly rejected by the socialist countries, which support an equal percentage reduction of armed forces and armaments without harming either party.

Representatives of socialist countries hope that after the exchange of additional data on the number of armed forces in central Europe, the Western side will have no grounds to doubt the approximate relationship of forces in the region. Western delegations should demonstrate more common sense and goodwill in the search for mutually beneficial solutions.

There has been talk in the West recently about bringing the question of neutron weapons to the Vienna talks. Representatives of socialist countries have often stressed the threat to the peace of Europe and the whole world caused by the production and deployment of neutron weapons. A few days ago socialist countries put forward to the Disarmament Committee in Geneva a draft convention on banning the production, accumulation, escalation and use of neutron nuclear weapons. The only way the problem should be solved is the following: All attempts to link the problem of neutron weapons with other questions not concerned with the subject, including problems discussed in Vienna, cannot be accepted by socialist countries. Such attempts can only complicate efforts to reach agreement at the Vienna talks.

GDR DELEGATE INTERVIEWED ON PROGRESS OF MBFR TALKS

LL231138Y Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Vienna, March 23, TASS--The TASS correspondent Igor Maslov reports:

I. Oeser, the head of the GDR delegation to the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, in a TASS interview commented on the results of the first half of the 14th round. It has become still more obvious, he said, how topical, realistic and flexible are the proposals made by the socialist countries in Vienna. If the Western parties to the talks had accepted them, the armed forces, both of the socialist countries and the NATO member countries, would now have been reduced by more than 150,000 men. This is evidence showing that the socialist states are prepared to reduce their armed forces on a mutual basis. But the Western side to date has not been prepared to take specific steps in reply.

The socialist countries' proposals are still before the conference. They take into consideration the real state of affairs in central Europe, Oeser said. The equal percentage reduction envisaged would not upset the existing military balance, neither from the viewpoint of numerical strength nor of armaments.

The constructive approach of the socialist countries to the problems under discussion in Vienna is also borne out by the fact that in October 1977 they proposed an exchange of further information on the numerical strength of the armed forces. Such an exchange is now being effected.

The NATO states, Oeser said, however, are still blocking progress at the Vienna talks, clinging to their unrealistic demands under which, as they themselves say, there must be an " asymmetrical" reduction. In other words, the socialist countries must reduce their forces three times more as compared with the West. This cannot be assessed otherwise than an undisguised desire by the West to gain a military advantage in the centre of Europe and to upset the military balance of forces.

The NATO countries continue increasing the numerical strength of their armed forces. Thus, the United States demonstratively announced another increase in their troops in central Europe by 8,000 officers and men. This also attests to a desire to gain military advantages and runs counter to the aims of the Vienna talks.

The United States plans for the manufacture of the neutron bomb and its deployment in central Europe, Oeser went on to say, are spearheaded against detente and increase the danger of nuclear war. That is why the socialist countries wholly and entirely support the proposal made by Leonid Brezhnev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the mutual renunciation of the manufacture of the neutron weapon.

Implementation of the Western plans related to the neutron weapon could create another big obstacle to the Vienna talks. The point is, the head of the GDR delegation said in conclusion, to prevent the manufacture of the neutron weapon and to avert another round of the arms race. This is precisely the purpose of the draft of an appropriate convention, submitted by the Soviet Union and other socialist states in the Disarmament Committee in Geneva.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD261736Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

['International Observers Roundtable' with participation by Vladimir Iordanskiy, Stanislav Kondrasnov and Vladimir Dunayev--no positions given]

[Text] [Dunayev] Good morning, comrades. Here is an aphorism attributed to the well-known Soviet scientist and arctic explorer, Otto Yulyevich Schmidt Ice melts as it is studied. Let us recall all the myths, from the abominable snowman to the Bermuda triangle, that have melted away when they became subject to scientific investigation. In those cases, it was at least ignorance of sensationalism that gave rise to the legends; but in international waters, in the ocean of foreign policy problems, many events are overlaid with legends invented for selfish ends. It is then all the more important to show the real course of events, especially of those that are distorted by myth. In today's discussion, we shall try to elucidate the significance of the advent of a provisional government in Rhodesia and of the situation in the Horn of Africa, and to describe the development of the Near East situation since the Israeli incursion into Lebanon, the Security Council session and Begin's visit to the United States. Over to you, Stanislav Nikolayevich.

Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

[Kondrashov] When we talk and argue about international events and politics, we use the language of formulas and figures, of logical reasoning. Without that, we could not describe the new developments in the Near East. But to begin with I should like to say something else: Politics there have once again begun to speak the language of blood. Once again, they are trying to conduct politics with shells and bombs. Politics are walking over the corpses of innocent people and through the ruins of devastated homes. These are the politics of Israel, which has committed aggression against Lebanon and seized the south of that country.

I was in southern Lebanon 3.5 months ago, in the area of the far south adjacent to the Mediterranean. Not without trepidation I stood on the actual border of the no man's land where only sheep wander free, while people take cover and watch each other as enemies. In the village of 'Ayn al Maqrumah, the southermost Lebanese village, over which the blue flag of the UN fluttered on its high pole, I remember the old customs building, which has not been used for its original pupose for a very long time--30 years or so. As soon as you pass it, you are in Israel and there there are no relations with Israel whatever. I remember also the houses of that village, which stand on a hilltop; former houses, with broken windows and holes in the walls from shell fragments. These were all marks left by Israeli raids. I remember ordinary people, Lebanese peasants, chatting peacably outside the old customs house in the tender, gentle heat of the December sun. It is the peacefulness of this little scene that sticks in my memory. Where there should have been nothing but agitation and alarm, there they were sitting about peacefully, puffing on cigarettes, having a peaceful conversation. Where are they now? What has become of them? Are they alive? The reckoning of blood is the heaviest reckoning.

As a pretext for its invasion of Lebanon, the Israeli Government used the killing of 37 Israelis by 11 Palestinian terrorists. The murder of civilians cannot be justified, especially when it is deliberate. But what did Tel Aviv do? For an act of terrorism affecting dozens of people, the Israeli Government wreaked vengeance upon tens and even hundreds of thousands of people who had nothing to do with that action. It retaliated with aggression against another country, with gangsterism raised to the level of state policy.

And still it demands sympathy--which, believe it or not, is actually forthcoming from some quarters: from the U.S. House of Representatives, for example, which almost unanimously and in an atmosphere of well orchestrated indignation condemned the action of the Palestinian soldiers and found no word of condemnation for the aggressive actions of Israel.

What are the physical results of that aggression? Let us cite the evidence of a recent eyewitness, a special correspondent of the French newspaper LE FIGARO (de Jardin'z). The other day, he reported from the south Lebanese town of Tyre that, as a result of military operations by the Israeli Army, the whole of southern Lebanon "has been turned into desert and ruins." According to the correspondent's figures, 1,000 Lebanese were killed and 3,000 wounded, in addition to the 300 Palestinians killed and 800 wounded. The roads to the capital, Beirut, are crowded with refugees, numbering about 160,000 according to the UN, out of a total Lebanese population of about 3 million. The population of southern Lebanon was already thinnned out before that invasion because of the constantly tense situation. This language of bombs and shells is now disguised by the language of hypocrisy. Israeli Defense Minister Weizman says his troops "did all they could to avoid causing unnecessary suffering to the population." Unnecessary--what a convenient and cruel word!

[Dunayev] It seems appropriate here to recall another statement--that of the Israeli military command before the invasion of Lebanon. It said that the Israeli troops did not intend to harm the population. We now know all too well the value of such statements. The Israeli aggression has been resolutely and angrily condemned throughout the world. As you know, the question has been urgently examined by the Security Council. The resolution adopted on 19 March provides for a UN peace force to be stationed in southern Lebanon: The resolution called on Israel to cease military operations against Lebanon forthwith and withdraw its troops from Lebanese territory. The 4,000 troops of the UN international forces are to remain in southern regions of Lebanon for 6 months, and the first contingents of French and Iranian troops have already arrived. The PLO feels that the introduction of the UN forces, while insuring a ceasefire and easing the tension somewhat, does not, of course, mean that the problem has been solved. As PLO spokesman Libadi has said, the crisis will end when the Israelis withdraw their forces from southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights in Syria, the West Bank of the Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula.

[Kondrashov] He's right, and incidentally it is right that we should be reminded of the Arab territories occupied by Israel. The invasion of Lebanon and the conquest of a considerable part of its territory, over which Tel Aviv would not mind retaining control despite the arrival of the UN force, carries the Israeli policy of expansion and aggression to its logical conclusion. Israel has borders with four Arab states: Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. And now, after its Lebanese operation, Israel has grabbed a fair-sized piece of territory from each of its Arab neighbors. In no way can that be described as neighborliness. In discussing these latest events, it must be said that they have more clearly highlighted various elements of the very complex mosaic of the Near East. Take, for instance, the separatist diplomacy of As-Sadat, which, in the beginning, gave some the illusion of a movement toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict. What has been the result? The conciliatory gestures of the Egyptian president, smacking of capitulationism, have merely exposed and weakened the Arab front, merely encouraged Begin's belligerence. Now, with its ruined villages and the blood of its civilians, Lebanon is paying for the so-called Egyptian-Israeli dialog. As-Sadat has turned out to be not the prophet and peacemaker he has been called in the West, but a political blind man. On the other hand, Begin has cast off all camouflage and diplomatic indirectness. The well-known Security Council Resolution 242, which is regarded as the basis for a Near East settlement, envisages withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories; but Begin, as if to mock both the UN and commonsense, now interprets that resolution as if it almost sanctioned Israel's conquest of territory on the West Bank of the Jordan.

The Israeli prime minister declares categorically that no pressure from international opinion will make him renounce that position. This seems to exclude a solution of the Palestinian problem. This being so, there is no prospect of any peaceful settlement. What is the way out? A new war?

Begin's U.S. Visit

Begin has brought things to such an impasse that Israel's chief ally and patron, the United States, has been forced to take its distance from him: This is shown by the results of Begin's visit to Washington last week. First, although the Carter administration has not condemned Tel Aviv's aggression in Lebanon, that action was an unwelcome gift. Washington realizes that, in the Near East, the Israelis are creating new problems rather than solving the old ones, and are doing so within the framework of the dialog with Egypt, under American supervision and in accordance with the interests of reinforcing America's positions. Second--and this also influenced the nature of the Carter-Begin meetings--Washington did not dare support Begin's claims to the West Bank of the Jordan. That would finally undermine American prestige even in the eyes of the pro-American Arabs.

Reporting the talks, the American press has emphasized the acute and open disagreements on the basic issues. Analyzing the outcome of the Begin visit in an editorial, the Washington POST says all signs indicate that the Carter administration has abandoned hope that the President will be able to influence Israeli policy to allow a continuation of the talks with President as-Sadat of Egypt and start talks with other Arabs. Summing up this appraisal, it turns out that the Egyptian-Israeli dialog under American auspices has died out completely. As-Sadat's much vaunted peace initiative has ended in an impasse from which no exit can be seen.

Need it be said that without America, without its political patronage, without its economic and military aid which has armed Israel to the teeth, the present Israeli hard line would not exist. Tel Aviv would not dare indulge in such adventures as that in Lebanon if it did not know that America stood behind it. All these facts remain valid.

And yet Carter's talks with Begin have demonstrated that relations between the two allies have now experienced complications and are under a cloud. The U.S. administration is unhappy with Begin's inflexibility. By its unwillingness to compromise, Israel is wrecking the American game connected with As-Sadat and the same old Egyptian-Israeli dialog. You see, it is with the help of this dialog, and using the Egyptian president as its political tool, that the United States would like to achieve a settlement that would strengthen American positions in the Arab countries, in all of this economically and strategically vital region. Israel is hampering the realization of this plan, placing its expansionist considerations above the strategic calculations of American imperialism.

Ethiopia-Somalia Conflict

[Dunayev] At the start I was speaking of the legends invented by the Western press. One of them concerns the inevitable vengeance of Ethiopia and the punishment of Somalia. There have been reports, assertions that, having liberated its province of Ogaden, Ethiopia's Army would ineluctably transfer military actions to the territory of Somalia. The direction of the strikes was predicted; Somali towns which would be initially occupied were marked on the map. Nothing of the kind occurred, and now who remembers? The papers live just for 1 day. Their business has been done: Hysteria has been produced and nerves put on edge. Meanwhile, at the end of this week, the entire Western press and certain parliaments have been stricken with feverish condemnation of the terror in Ethiopia. What is really happening in the area of the Horn of Africa? In July, Vladimir Borisovich, when the Somali invasion of the Ogaden was beginning, you analyzed these events and revealed their true nature. The situation was desperately difficult for Ethiopia then. Now it has all changed somewhat.

[Iordanskiy] It seems to me that things have changed radically. The Somali Government, which unleashed aggression against Ethiopia, has suffered a complete defeat in the Ogaden. It must be said that the Ethiopian Government has not hastened to exploit its military success by exerting any kind of hard pressure on Somalia.

A few days ago the Ethiopian Government proposed its conditions for a political settlement of the conflict with Somali. These conditions consist of the following: Somalia must unconditionally renounce all claims on the territory of Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. The Somali Government must openly announce its agreement with the principles of the UN and OAU resolutions regulating interstate relations, including the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. Finally, Somalia must solemnly announce that the country will observe and respect international agreements, in particular the principle of the renunciation of the use of force in settling international disputes.

I would like to note that the proposals made by Ethiopia are without the slightest expansionist nuance. With respect to territory, they envisage a return to the situation which existed in the Horn of Africa before the Somali aggression. These are just and, bluntly speaking, mild conditions, and they give the Somali leaders a way out of the exceedingly complex situation in which they have found themselves as a result of their adventure.

Will the Somali Government take advantage of this opportunity? The answer evidently depends on what conclusions will be drawn in Mogadiscio from the lessons of the defeat in the Ogaden. What are the lessons? First and foremost, it should be noted that every time that an African government is led by the nose by imperialist wellwishers, in the final analysis it ends in catastrophe. It must be recalled that last summer, before the Somali Government had begun its military aggression against Ethiopia and was clearly hesitating before making a final decision, it was the subject of colossal propaganda manipulation. The Western press was howling that after the fall of the imperial throne in Ethiopia, anarchy had allegedly taken over. The country was weakened by internal strife and could not put up a resistance in the event of a decisive blow. At the same time, reports circulated in the Western press that a number of capitalist powers were prepared to equip the Somali Army with all the necessary arms. Evidently, efforts of a similar nature were also going on at that time in diplomatic channels.

The well-known French observer Simon Malley recently wrote about that period in the periodical AFRIQUE-ASIE: Promises, assurances, insiduous demarches, a campaign of psychological propaganda--everything was brought into play in order to impress on the Somali leaders that they would be supported if they embarked on the road of the liberation of the Ogaden. Simon Malley also reveals the purpose of these efforts of imperialism--to weaken and topple the revolutionary regime in Ethiopia, and at the same time to paralyze progressive forces in Somalia itself in hopes of subsequently eliminating them.

But after Somalia found itself deeply drawn into the Ogaden adventure, the West took a step back. If it had been hoped in Mogadiscio that the West would back the idea of a great Somalia, which would be a strong, cohesive state, then it was a bitter mistake. While Somali soldiers were dying on the hills of the Ogaden, the West proposed the idea of the independence of the Ogaden. The London TIMES, in the best traditions of official British sanctimoniousness, wrote, in an editorial on 16 August last year, that provision should be made for some form of independence for the Ogaden, supposedly in order to prevent mutual destruction by Addis Ababa and Mogadiscio.

[Dunayev] Vladimir Borisovich, you said that the West took a step back. This needs some explanation: That means that it did not fulfill the promises which it, so to speak....

[Iordanskiy] Quite right...

[Dunayev] And in doing so it deliberately placed Somalia in a very complicated position, having nudged it into adventure and aggression, and then not supporting this with open military interference for reasons which depended on Western calculations. But this does not mean that a step was not taken because the West decided that it was not a just war--aggression--and that it was not worth participating.

[Iordanskiy] It seems to me not only that the West did not think about whether Somali aggression was just or unjust, but I think that it never considered ethics at all. It needed the Somali adventure as a blow to revolutionary Ethiopia. The Somali adventure was a lever with which to apply pressure on the revolutionary forces of Ethiopia, a lever with which the West hoped to reverse the march of Ethiopian history.

[Dunayev] In that case why did it not throw all its arms into Somalia's balance, its scales, and why did it not decide to back Somali aggression with all its might, rather than acting through intermediaries?

[Iordanskiy] It seems to me that one of the vital factors which influenced the decision of the Western powers was the position of other African countries not directly involved in the Ethiopian-Somali conflict. The aggression begun by Somalia aroused indignation throughout Africa. Direct aid of any kind to Somalia in the unleashing and continuation of this aggression would unquestionably have weakened the positions of the West throughout the continent. I think that it was just such a consideration that prompted the Western powers--after they had badgered Somalia into military aggression against Ethiopia--to take a step back and not to fulfill the promises which the Western press was then howling about.

[Dunayev] Then this must have produced a very bitter sobering-up in Somalia itself, some desire to carry out a political about-face, because they have found themselves in the situation of a little boy that has been urged on, thrown into an adventure and then finds that the promises made have not been kept. Such things do not occur in politics without leaving their mark.

[Iordanskiy] Unfortunately, we know too little about what the Somali leaders are thinking at the present time. But if they have correctly appraised the recent past, then the sobering-up of which you speak should indeed have occurred in Mogadiscio. Let us wait and perhaps we will witness some kind of practical steps by the Somali Government which will confirm that it has drawn its conclusions from the recent events.

The Somali military aggression in the Ogaden is now only a page of African history, but not completely so. Announcing the withdrawal of regular units from the Ogaden, the Somali Government said nothing about whether it was also recalling its irregular units, which are operating behind the screen of the Western Somalia Liberation Front. While these units remain on Ethiopian soil the danger of another big military adventure remains. Without the withdrawal of the irregular Somali units from the Ogaden it will be difficult to ensure a stable peace in the Horn of Africa.

But how will Mogadiscio respond to Ethiopia's proposal? According to agency reports, the OAU intends to help the two countries to normalize their relations. However, emissaries from some Near East countries and the United States have become frequent visitors in the Somali capital, with the obvious hope of influencing the decision which the Somali leaders are now examining.

The American press reports that Washington is studying the question of arms supplies for Somalia. These attempts to pour oil on the embers of the fire are alarming.

What else would I like to point out in connection with the present events in the Horn of Afria? It seems to me that one of the very important lessons of the Ogaden would be the conclusion that attempts to solve interstate conflicts in Africa by war are inadmissible. It is no accident that the OAU Charter--which was approved by the continent's heads of state and government--proclaimed the principle of the inviolability of state borders. At first sight the decision might seem incomprehensible: These borders were, after all, drawn arbitrarily by the colonial powers, often in direct contradiction with the requirements of the national unity of African people. Nonetheless, the founders of the OAU realized full well that attempts to revise the existing borders would engender an atmosphere of protracted and tense conflicts on the continent, and in cases where territorial claims were underpinned by force, bloody and destructive wars might start.

The Somali aggression has completely justified such apprehensions. According to Ethiopian press reports, many towns and villages in the Ogaden lie in ruins. This region accounts for about a third of Ethiopia's territory and--although it is sparsely populated--one can easily imagine the size of the damage inflicted by the Somali attack. Hundreds of thousands are without shelter or the means of subsistence. The Somali people have also suffered greatly from the military adventure in the Ogaden. The country's feeble economy had not recovered from the dreadful drought when the incipient war inflicted new blows on it. The rout of the Somali Army resulted in the country losing the enormous funds it had invested in the development of its armed forces. Finally, plans for the country's further economic development have been undermined, and the program for strengthening agriculture has been compromised. In light of all these facts, another lesson of the Ogaden appears especially important--in Africa, it is impermissible to resolve the questions of national development through warfare. The key to their resolution lies in democratic social transformations.

Rhodesian Transitional Government

[Dunayev] You have spoken of the lessons of the Ogaden, but one could also speak of the lessons of Rhodesia. Last week the boss of the Rhodesian regime, Ian Smith, and an African threesome were sworn in as leaders of the transitional government. These four figures make up the Executive Council--that's the external face of the Rhodesian internal settlement--one white planter and three Africans at the head of the state, with general elections and majority rule at the end of the year. About 15 years ago, it would probably have been the conventional neocolonialist solution as in other former colonies--the faces change and the system remains; the emblem changes and the dependence is kept. But the Rhodesian internal settlement has a slightly unconventional history: The white planter regime, the racist terror and white mercenaries against the patriots who took up arms, the long years of struggle, the partisan war which embraced the entire country--they were 15 years late with the settlement, and the train has left. No one yet recognizes this Salisbury deal: not the Zimbabwe people, not the neighboring African states called the frontline states, nor the OAU or the UN. Even among Smith's American and British allies, there is no unamity. A crossfire flared up between British Foreign Secretary Owen and American UN Ambassador Young. Young found the Rhodesian settlement ephemeral and accused the British of dooming Rhodesia--as they had formerly doomed the Near East--to decades of armed conflicts with which the American will have to deal.

But what is wrong with the white planters finally agreeing to share power--if not to yield it, at least to share it--with those Africans who assent to that? That is the question London observers are asking today.

Let us take a look at the persons with whom Ian Smith, who represents 4 percent of the population, has reached agreement, and who has joined his Executive Council on behalf of the other 96 percent of the country's population. Jeremiah Chirau, aged 54, is a tribal chief on whom Ian Smith has bestowed the title of senator. He has never represented anyone, has long been in Smith's service and is famous only for having called the Rhodesian fuehrer a benefactor of the Zimbabwe people. With Chirau, Ian Smith could agree on anything he wants without even asking him. The next party to the deal with Smith is the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, aged 57. This priest was once in detention, but several years ago he left the national liberation movement. He has no followers, but he does have lots of money: As TIME magazine has pointed out, Sithole has major financial backers in London. If Sithole did represent someone at the Salisbury talks, then it certainly wasn't the Africans but the British Lonrho Company and other financial donors.

Things are not so simple regarding the third party to the settlement, Abel Muzorewa. This 52-year-old bishop, educated in the United States, did not take part in the national liberation movement: We first heard his name at the start of the 70's, when he won popularity by opposing the approval by referendum of Smith's deal with London. Since then he has often changed his position and, after the Patriotic Front was set up and the armed struggle began, he started moving ever further from a patriotic stance and ever closer to that of a splitter. And yet I will say frankly that it was a surprise to see him in the role of a direct accomplice to Ian Smith. Apparently, the fear of being left out is an unbearable torment for such ambitious men. The logic of concessions is implacable, and the name of Abel Muzorewa--once spoken with respect in Africa--has become part and parcel with Chirau and the other accomplices to the deal. As a politician he has, I think, lost his former prestige: As a bishop, he still enjoys a degree of popularity among the faithful and draws thousands to his meetings.

So who really represents the Zimbabwe people? Over 100,000 people have left their villages, taken up arms and joined the colors of the Patriotic Front, led by Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe. Does that not show whom Zimbabwe follows? And what settlement is possible without their participation, in the face of the Patriotic Front? Even the American representative to the UN, Andrew Young, who holds the distinction of sometimes saying things that other Western politicians and diplomats will not, has sceptically remarked that tens of thousands of people would not go out to fight if they are happy with Smith and his accomplices.

For what do the authors of the settlement hope? First, I think, they see this as an instrument of pressure against the Patriotic Front leaders and Rhodesia's neighboring African states. Unless you agree to our terms or a compromise, they say, the Salisbury plot will remain in force. Second, the provisional settlement, as it is called, seems to me to be inspired by this: The situation of the white planters and the Smith regime is now desperate. Despite the white mercenaries and the arms aid, the Smith regime can not withstand the onslaught of the Zimbabwe patriotic forces much longer. We see daily testimony to this: Vast parts of the country are already completely controlled by the patriotic forces, and Ian Smith's regime is mounting desperate attempts to find a way of internationalizing the conflict by attacking neighboring countries. Unless economic sanctions are lifted, and without direct and very intensive assistance in modern weapons from the United States and Great Britain and other West European countries, Smith cannot hold out for long. That is now clear to all. To obtain the lifting of the sanctions--for London and Washington to at least abandon those sanctions unilaterally--the decor must be changed and things must be portrayed as though something had changed in Rhodesia, as though Ian Smith's regime was sharing power or yielding power to some kind of African representatives. That, it seems to me, is the long-term inspiration for this deal, to have some kind of basis should the West decide to give Ian Smith's regime even more blatant, flagrant and more sizeable aid.

Our broadcast has run out of time; thank you for listening, comrades. Until our next meeting.

UN LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LATE MARCH

LD242056Y Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Leonidov writes: The efforts of the countries should be directed not at dividing the world ocean, but at establishing a legal foundation for peaceful, equitable and friendly cooperation and interaction of all states. This is the opinion of Soviet specialists working on problems of the law of the sea. They will pursue such a line at the next session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, which is to open in Geneva on March 28. The USSR's delegation will be headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Semen Kozyrev.

An important result of the conference, which has been working for five years now is, it is believed here, elaboration of the full text of the draft convention. In it there are still serious unresolved matters, but on the whole this is a good foundation for attaining mutually-acceptable accords. In the opinion of Soviet experts, the draft already reflects a constructive approach to solution of questions on the width limit (12 nautical miles) of territorial waters, the regime of international straits and waters of archipelago states. The same can be stated concerning many important provisions pertaining to establishment of a 200-mile economic zone. The session will pay priority attention to outstanding matters, the cause of the most acute contradictions, specifically prospecting for and development of resources of the sea bottom.

At the previous session, the USSR backed up compromise formulas concerning these problems. Meeting halfway the wishes of developing countries, the Soviet delegation specifically expressed readiness to support the proposal that an international body could arrange, carry out and control the development of resources of the sea bottom. But the USSR's condition was that separate states either will be granted the right and a real possibility to conduct such activities within the framework of the convention's principles. If this key question is settled, it might be possible to find solution of other complex problems.

The cause of certain anxiety of the Soviet public are plans of some circles to take unilateral actions spreading to the international area of the sea bottom outside the continental shelf. In the U.S. Congress, specifically, a bill has been drafted on access of American private companies to resources of that area. Such a bill, if adopted, would inevitably entail escalation of unilateral actions and undermine the international settlement not only of the question of the regime of the international part of the sea bottom, but the whole "basket" of other questions of the law of the sea being considered by the conference.

As different from such steps which gravely complicate the work of the conference, the USSR and other countries of socialism are doing their utmost to promote achievement of a really international settlement of problems of the world ocean. Turning down any attempts of diktat and of imposing unilateral demands, from whatever side they should come, the countries of the socialist community stand in defence of the rights and the interests of all states and peoples. They will uphold this stand also at the coming session of the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Soviet Delegations Depart

LD250956Y Moscow TASS in English 0948 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 25, TASS--The USSR delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Semen Kozyrev today flew to Geneva for participation in a regular session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Delegations of the Ukraine and Belorussia left for the session at the same time. The delegations include prominent specialists on sea transport, fisheries and geology, lawyers and economists.

Talk on important problems of the international law of the world ocean and cooperation of states in the use of its resources will be continued at the session that opens on March 22. The conference is working out a draft all-embracing convention on the law of the sea which is called upon to regulate the main questions of the law of the sea with taking into consideration lawful rights and interests of all countries and to ensure consolidation of peace and equal cooperations on seas.

REPORTS ON AID TO VIETNAM DELIVERED BY UN MISSION

LD251314Y Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 25, TASS--Representatives of the UN member countries met here to hear the results of work by the UN special mission for international aid for the rehabilitation of Vietnam. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim called in his address upon the United Nations organisation to give all possible aid to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in restoring its national economy.

USSR Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organisation O.A. Troyanovskiy stressed that the Soviet Union gave all-round aid to Vietnam during the war and intends to continue it in the period of rehabilitation and development of national economy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Vo Dong Giang expressed, on behalf of the people and government of Vietnam, profound gratitude to the fraternal socialist countries, above all to the Soviet Union, all the peace-loving and freedom-loving states, which gave resolute support to the victorious struggle by the people of Vietnam and its efforts for the rehabilitation of national economy.

Addressing a press-conference held at the United Nations organisation later, a representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam specially noted that already 77 UN member-countries and 29 various agencies of the United Nations organisation have responded to the resolution of the 32d session of the General Assembly and are participating in international aid for the restoration of Vietnam.

Under these conditions, Vo Dong Giang noted, the United States cannot refuse to give aid to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in healing the wounds of war.

VANCE ASSESSES STATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS

LD251136Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1102 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington--U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance has held a press conference at the State Department in which he dwelt, in particular, on Soviet-American relations.

Our relations with the Soviet Union have entered a delicate stage, the secretary of state said. On some questions being discussed during consultations and talks we are achieving progress, on others we are standing still. I think that we must continue all these discussions and talks with the Soviet Union, as it is extremely important--not only for our bilateral relations but also for peace throughout the world--that, together with the Russians, we do everything possible for the relaxation of tension in our relations.

According to the secretary of state, both sides have achieved substantial progress at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, although there remain some unsolved questions of various degrees of difficulty. The United States, C. Vance continued, will not be tied to any framework regarding the time for completion of these talks. However, the concrete aim of the talks, that is, the conclusion of a new agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons, can, in his opinion, be achieved. As a guideline, he indicated that this summer a new agreement might be submitted to Congress.

U.S. AGENCIES DENY CHARGES OF USSR VIOLATION OF SUB LIMIT

LD241534Y Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports: The enemies of detente who resort to slander, trying to smear the Soviet Union's reputation as a reliable partner in international agreements and thus to put spokes in the wheels of the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks under way now, have been caught lying once again. The "groundlessness", to put it mildly, of accusations against the USSR was confirmed this time by two competent U.S. bodies, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Department of State.

The canard about the Soviet Union's alleged "violations" of Soviet-U.S. arrangement concluded earlier was launched in February of this year by a mouthpiece of the industrial-military complex, the magazine AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. Its accusation of the Soviet Union of having more missile-carrying submarines than the agreed number was immediately picked up by other bodies of the mass media and by hawks as an evidence of Moscow's being "unreliable" and "perfidious". But this lie is easy to expose.

Answering a question of the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, John Sparkman, acting director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency S. Keeny said officially that the agency has no evidence that the Soviet Union has a greater number of missile-carrying submarines than the limits that were set for both countries by the Soviet-American agreement.

The U.S. Department of State refuted the magazine's report, too. Answering the request of the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Problems of Oceans and Environment, Claiborne Pell, the assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, Douglas Bennett, issued a statement in which he stressed that all the information at the disposal of the administration indicates that the Soviet Union has not surpassed the limit of missile-carrying submarines and that press reports to the contrary are not in keeping with reality.

Speaking in the Senate, John Sparkman and Claiborne Pell expressed satisfaction over the fact that this matter has been clarified. Senator John Sparkman condemned groundless accusations against the USSR concerning such a serious and important matter for the United States as strategic offensive arms limitation.

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BEHIND 'SOVIET MENACE' MYTH

LD261026Y Moscow TASS in English 1015 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--TASS commentator Ivan Ablamov writes: Ever new "studies" and reports whose authors rehash the myth about the "Soviet menace" now appear in the United States almost every day. Fables are being spread about "dangerous buildup of armaments" by the Soviet Union, about its striving to achieve military supremacy over the United States. The authors of all these fabrications pretend that they believe in earnest the myth they created themselves. It must be said that this is a game with dishonest intentions. It is well-known that the Soviet Union does not threaten and is not going to attack anyone. Its military measures do not exceed the requirements of defense.

Many times the Soviet Union expressed clearly and unambigously its readiness to continue advancing along the road of the relaxation of international tensions and development of mutually advantageous cooperation with states with a different social system. One must think that this clear affirmation of its stand did not pass unnoticed in the West. Then how can the persistent spreading in the United States of allegations about the "Soviet menace" be explained?

Some kind of an explanation is provided by reports in the U.S. press. According to its data, the Pentagon intends to adopt for armament the new XM-1 tank. The total programme of its production will cost 10.4 billion dollars to the U.S. taxpayers. And this is far from all. Atomic submarines with Trident ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, the new ballistic missile MX, neutron weapons--these new types of deadly weapons are being developed or prepared for production in the United States. It is easy to understand that the myth about the "Soviet menace" is being used, as in the past, in an attempt to explain to Americans the beginning of another round of the arms race on which tens or may be even hundreds of billions of dollars will be squandered.

It is common knowledge that the military-industrial complex, which seeks high profits, links its hopes with the stepping up of the arms race. Going by reports of the U.S. mass media, certain circles in the United States, linked with the arms build up, also have other far-reaching military-political plans. One after another, many press organs in the United States and various leaders declare outright that stockpiling of new, ever more "effective" types of armaments is necessary for confirming the United States' global world strategy and its claims to the right to decide the destinies of the world. And when U.S. imperialists' designs are revealed so openly the question arises what all this has got to do with the non-existent "Soviet menace".

PROFESSOR'S ARTICLE CRITICIZES CARTER'S MILITARY POLICY

LD251344Y Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

["Dangerous Doctrine"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, March 25, TASS--During the stay of U.S. President Jimmy Carter in power, that country's military doctrine has been seriously revised: From the line proclaimed earlier for ensuring national security of the United States through negotiations and curbing the arms race, emphasis is now being shifted towards the line of threats and building up tensions.

This conclusion is drawn by Professor A. Wolf of California university in his article published in the NATION magazine. According to this doctrine, a new version of "limited war" concept is being drawn up, within the framework of which the conduct of non-nuclear combat operations in Europe, as well as the launching of interventionist operations in "hot spots", for example in the Middle East, is envisaged. These changes in the military doctrine of the United States have already been reflected, in Professor Wolf's opinion, in a sharp rise in appropriations for the Pentagon's budget (in the fiscal year of 1979, they are to reach nearly 130 billion dollars--that country's all-time high).

Professor Wolf comments on the presidential memorandum prepared last year, which sets forth the basic provisions of the new strategy. The document contains the conclusion that the Soviet Union and the United States have reached, in principle, an equality in the general balance of strategic forces, and if a nuclear war between the USSR and the USA breaks out, losses of human life and destructions would be so great that neither of the sides could be called the victor.

Such a sane conclusion could, as it seems, serve as a basis for sensible decisions in the quest for accords on the limitation of the arms race and strengthening the policy of international detente. But instead, the memorandum plans a build-up of the "non-nuclear potential." "Mobility" or the creation of such armed forces that could be speedily sent to any part of the world in "emergency situations" is becoming the cornerstone of J. Carter's military policy, A. Wolf goes on to write. And this actually means the creation of interventionist forces.

It is on the basis of this doctrine that U.S. Defence Secretary H. Brown has already sent to commanders of the three services secret directives providing for reorganization of the armed forces with the aim of building up their combat potential. Along with the deployment of neutron bombs, cruise missiles and construction of atomic powered Trident submarines, funds are considerably growing for the purchase of helicopters for airlifting troops and military equipment, for the manufacture of an additional number of aircraft of tactical aviation, in particular A-10, A-4, F-16, and for the mass production of the latest XM-1 tank.

The newspaper New York TIMES also reports on the implementation of the new military doctrine in the USA. On H. Brown's instructions a correspondent of this newspaper R. Burt writes, special "lightning strike" forces are formed for use outside the European Continent, including two airborne units and one brigade of the Marines. The training of the personnel of these forces, having a strength of 100 thousand, is already underway.

Although J. Carter's doctrine is publicised as a moderate one, it is very dangerous as a matter of fact, A. Wolf stresses. Strongly criticising this strategy of the U.S. administration, in particular, a new version of the "limited war" concept in Europe, he stresses that any war in Europe will inevitably turn into a nuclear one. A. Wolf seriously doubts the advisability of pursuing such a risky line leading to confrontation. Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States are now based on cooperation more than ever after the Second World War, the scientist stresses.

UNITY CONTINUES DESPITE APPARENT CARTER-BEGIN DISAGREEMENT

Concern Over Separate Talks

LD241705Y Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 24 Mar 78

[Text] Washington, Mar 24, TASS--Speaking at a press conference on the eve of his departure from the United States, the Prime Minister of Israel Begin again confirmed Israel's intransigent stand in respect of the Middle East settlement, its refusal to withdraw its troops from occupied Arab territories, to recognise the lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

Begin described as "absolutely unacceptable" the demand for the withdrawal of Israeli troops contained in United Nations resolutions and said that Israel intended not only to preserve but also to expand the network of its militarised settlements in captured lands.

The U.S. mass media is trying hard to convey the idea that "serious differences" had surfaced in the course of Begin's talks with President Carter and that American-Israeli relations are supposedly living through an "unprecedented crisis". Concealed behind this is official Washington's obvious desire at least ostentatiously to dissociate itself from Tel Aviv's glaringly rigid and aggressive stand, that is condemned throughout the world. But it is well known that precisely unconditional support by the United States for the expansionist ambitions of the Israeli leaders, its widescale military and economic aid to Tel Aviv have given Israel the possibility to take such a stand and ignore the lawful rights of the Arab peoples.

The only thing that now really worries the United States is the fate of the Egyptian-Israeli separate talks. Washington believes that Tel Aviv's intention to secure additional concessions over and above those earlier agreed upon between the United States and Israel may lead the talks into an impasse and make it difficult to attract other Arab countries, in particular Jordan, to them. This, in turn, will inevitably lead to a further weakening of the already wobbly positions of Egypt's President as-Sadat who is now one of the main propagators of American policy in the Middle East.

But the efforts of American propaganda will hardly delude anyone. Everybody knows that Israel and the United States are acting as one, in accordance with plans that were drawn up in advance and are directed at legalising the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and preventing the implementation of the lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

But it is quite natural that Begin's runaway statements cause irritation in the United States because, however much Washington's feelings are with Israel, it tries to pose also as a "friend" of Arabs. That is precisely why rumours have appeared in the American press about the possible replacement of Begin by a more "flexible" man in the post of prime minister. Israel's Defence Minister Weizman is named among the candidates. Political observers note in this connection that there is no fundamental difference in Begin's and Weizman's approach to questions of the Middle East settlement. The differences are only outward ones, in tactics: While Begin finds it necessary to advertise his belligerency and intractability, Weizman prefers to operate without excessive publicity, though promoting the very same expansionist course.

Crisis Talk Only Smokescreen

LD251659Y Moscow TASS in English 1532 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 25, TASS--U.S. news media are writing much these days on some "crisis" in relations between the USA and Israel after the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Begin to Washington, which ended two days ago. One can often read in the pages of Western publications such expressions as "failure of Begin's talks with J. Carter" "a most acute crisis," "Israel refuses to yield to the demands of the White House" and so on. The Washington POST writes on some tough confrontation between the USA and Israel, and the London TIMES even claims that the relations between the two countries have been torn to pieces.

But as a matter of fact it is an artificially whipped up campaign about some differences in the approach to the Middle East problems deliberately exaggerated, as the main policy line has been coordinated between Washington and the Israeli Government.

The officially declared aim of the visit of the Israeli prime minister to Washington was a reanimation of Israeli-Egyptian separate talks within the framework of As-Sadat's notorious initiative, an attempt to pave the ground for drawing Jordan into these talks.

As seen from statements by American officials, a further coordination of the joint political line of the two countries on the Middle East problem, particularly in the field of reaching a bilateral agreement between Israel and Egypt, took place at the talks in Washington. The Paris newspaper L'HUMANITE writes that the "ties of the USA with Israel are far from being severed." "The Israeli prime minister," the newspaper notes, "returned home without special alarm. Begin's talks now have been 'difficult', but nevertheless they have reaffirmed the commitment of the USA to continue support for Israel".

It is precisely basing itself on this support that Tel Aviv could use As-Sadat's capitulatory line as an instrument for undermining the unity of the Arab world, which contributes in a tremendous measure to the realization of Tel Aviv's plans for continuing territorial expansion, including in southern Lebanon. Egypt's political and military isolation gives M. Begin ground to hope that he will be able to impose on Cairo, with Washington's aid, even the demands, which are now considered by the Egyptian officials to be "extremist". Among these demands is the preservation in Sinai, of Israeli airforce bases and militarised settlements, which are under Tel Aviv's jurisdiction and control of strategic points of the type of Sharm ash-Shaykh.

It is precisely these considerations, which necessitated the trip of the Israeli prime minister across the ocean. Washington's stand on this issue can be described only as the striving to sanction, behind the smokescreen of "acute contradictions", Israel's political line of imposing terms of a separate deal with Egypt on conditions advantageous to Tel Aviv. The Jordanian newspaper AL-AKHBAR writes in this connection that the USA "calls upon M. Begin only to change the style and manner of his behavior, as a result of which American plans and intentions have been made public." And another Jordanian newspaper AD-DUSTUR calls upon the USA to return to a dialogue with the Soviet Union as regards the convocation of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East. In this the newspaper sees the possibility of "avoiding a waste of time, which is the aim of Israel."

Disagreements 'Pace-Saving' Device

LD241615Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The White House officially announced that a joint statement on the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Begin and his talks with President Carter will not be issued. This has served as a new impetus to the propaganda campaign in the U.S. and Egyptian press as well as in papers of other countries. Leading U.S. papers such as the Washington POST, New York TIMES and others have strenuously tried to convince public opinion that this time Carter adopted a hard line and did not bless Israel's actions.

As for Cairo, the Egyptian papers tried to portray the matter as if Begin's visit came as evidence of a change in U.S. policy toward the Middle East in favor of the Arabs, thus confirming, as they allege, the soundness of As-Sadat's capitulationist policy. But what are the facts of the situation?

In his statement, Begin said that there was an identity of views between Israel and the United States on basic issues. He said that both countries are against the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Explaining the words of his chief, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan pointed out that there will be no crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations, adding: We did not feel any pressure on us from the United States, which has not tried to exercise pressure on Israel.

The Baghdad paper AL-JUMHURIYAH rightly said in this connection that the imperialist-Zionist alliance has never been so evident as during the exchange of speeches between Carter and Begin. Carter, the paper points out, has become the first U.S. president to call for a peace policy based on aggression, and he blatantly declares that Begin will be able to attain peace with the help of U.S. weapons. Jordan's AD-DUSTUR, commenting on the allegation that U.S. pressure was exerted on Begin, said that this pressure was only skin deep, never reaching the bone. What has prompted the United States to portray the matter so distortedly? The answer is not difficult to find.

After Israel's aggression against Lebanon, the situation in the Middle East has changed appreciably. The treacherous attack on an independent Arab country and the blatant policy of genocide practiced on the peaceful Lebanese and Palestinians is reminiscent of the era of Nazism in Germany. All this has aroused a wave of indignation and resentment throughout the world.

Even the Arab countries that are known for their close relations with Washington firmly denounced this aggression. It also aroused concern in many NATO countries. It is common knowledge that it was Washington and no one else which armed and supported the aggressor politically and economically and knew everything about Tel Aviv's plans. Consequently it shares responsibility with Israel for the international acts of banditry.

In the light of these facts it is evident that the serious attempt to dramatize contradictions between Carter and Begin is in fact no more than a face-saving device. However, it can now be said that the attempt was unsuccessful and the ploy about Israel-U.S. contradictions has been exposed.

Rift Called Propaganda Spectacle

LD241922Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1600 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Valentin Lapin commentary]

[Text] The Middle East is in the throes of yet another tragedy. Israeli troops have occupied southern Lebanon and this fresh arbitrary act has again been committed with the connivance of the United States. But the American well-wishers of Israel prefer to keep in the background in the face of international indignation over the latest aggression launched by the Israeli hawks.

American and Israeli officials have now staged a propagandist spectacle concerning alleged differences between their countries. The general public is made to believe that these American-Israeli differences have just been revealed during the latest visit to Washington of the Israeli Prime Minister Begin. Official quarters in the West and in Israel keep talking about a deep rift between the American and Israeli stands and even hint that the talks between Begin and President Carter have been a failure. Broad hints are dropped to the effect that Washington has become disillusioned with the Israeli premier, so every effort is being made to make the general public believe that there has appeared a serious rift in the special relationship between Israel and the United States.

In actual fact nothing of this sort has really happened in Israeli-American relations. The only purpose of these sensational hints and revelations is to try and hide the actual behind-the-scene dealings of the two partners in the same game. The results of this game are quite apparent. Hundreds of Lebanese civilians have been killed or injured by Israeli aggressors, who have been using sophisticated weapons supplied by the United States. Scores of Lebanese towns and villages have been reduced to rubble and more than 250,000 people have been left homeless. This pirate aggression, which smacks of undisguised genocide, had been launched and executed in the full knowledge and with the blessing of the American policy makers. This being so, it is really hard to believe that Washington is sincere in its decision to send blankets, tents and dressing materials to the victims of its aggression, in which American weapons had played such (?a lethal) role.

Thus there is every reason to believe that the latest escalation of the Israeli aggression in the Middle East is stage-managed from Washington. There is every reason to believe that the latest 6-day war in Lebanon was authorized and prepared in the same manner as the 6-day war of 1967. At that time the Israeli aggressors captured large Arab territory stretching from Sinai to the Golan Heights, and now the aggressors want to entrench themselves in southern Lebanon.

Tel Aviv was able to trample underfoot international law and United Nations decisions only because it relies on American support. Every step taken by the aggressor is directed from Washington, and Cairo assumes the role of a benevolent onlooker. It is doomed to this passive role by its separate flirtations with Tel Aviv.

The latest tragedy in southern Lebanon proves better than anything else that the policy of separate dealings, instead of a comprehensive settlement that would take into account the interests of all Middle East countries, can only aggravate tension and encourage the Israeli aggressors.

U.S. CONDEMNED FOR FAILURE TO CRITICIZE ISRAELI ATTACK

LD252002Y Moscow TASS in English 1755 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 25, TASS--Sergey Stoklitsky, a TASS commentator, writes: Israel's pirate attack on southern Lebanon led to the killing of hundreds of innocent residents, to the abandonment of homes by tens and even hundreds of thousands of people, to the devastation of peaceful villages and towns. The world public opinion justly regards Tel Aviv's new act of aggression as a glaring violation of elementary international norms and humanitarian rights, and first of all, man's inalienable right to live.

The wrathful voice of protest against the crimes by the Israeli military is heard everywhere. Everywhere but not in the U.S. capital. Not a single word in direct condemnation of the aggressor was uttered in official Washington. It seems that Washington simply did not notice the hard suffering of the victims of the Israeli aggression or, to be more exact, it posed as if it did not notice that. Unwilling to introduce a discordant note to the well-arranged score for the chorus of those who 'protect' human rights from alleged violations of these rights in socialist countries.

The sentimental melody of the noble hidalgo who nightly and daily struggles (abroad, not at home, though) against violation of human rights, almost incessantly sounds in the performance of one or another American soloist, and since a certain time became the leit motif of the foreign policy of the United States.

In order to make the world audience believe in the sincerity of their intentions, the 'advocates' of human rights publicly, and more than once, stated that for the sake of struggle for undeviating observance of so lofty and humane principles throughout the world, they are ready to do everything, right up to termination of deliveries of arms and assistance to foreign countries which violate these principles.

It would seem that the policy of militant Zionism fits the case exactly. But, contrary to the elementary logic and its own assurances, the USA by no means intends to deprive the Israeli military of its patronage. Moreover, it continues increasing Israel's military-industrial potential, thereby urging the aggressor to practise arbitrariness and lawlessness.

As for the sentimental tunes of the 'altruists' beyond the ocean, they are only the background to muffle the true motives and the selfish goals of the U.S. foreign policy. Those tunes are false.

INCREASING ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL RESULT OF OFFICIAL VISITS

ID241514Y Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 24, TASS--The USA is increasing its arms supplies to Israel, thus actually encouraging the aggressor to further frustrating a Middle East peace settlement.

In the course of the visit to Washington of Israeli Defence Minister Weizman and the visit across the ocean of Prime Minister Begin, which followed it, the United States agreed to supply the Zionist "hawks" with a new batch of military equipment. According to press reports, Israel has secured the supply of top secret night viewers Flir for use in tanks and 30-40 Hughes helicopters.

The press quotes the Pentagon as saying that American military objected against the supply of the night viewing system to Israel, as this sophisticated military equipment has not yet been adopted in the U.S. Army.

The decision on supplies was taken despite the fact that the U.S. administration was forced to admit that Israel already has by far more weapons than is necessary to ensure its "security."

TALKS BETWEEN CARTER, CALLAGHAN HELD, COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

ID241432Y Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Yegorov reports: Talks between President Carter and British Prime Minister James Callaghan were held in the White House. The communique on the talks says the sides discussed in detail the international economic situation, exchanged opinions on a number of other problems and agreed to continue consultations in future.

Callaghan's pronouncements at a press conference here show that the talks concentrated on preparations for the economic summit meeting of seven capitalist countries that is planned to be held in July in Bonn, the position of the dollar and the crisis of the economy of the West. Serious concern is caused in Britain by Washington's inability to stabilize the dollar.

A grim picture of the economic situation in the Western world was painted by the British prime minister. The rates of growth in the Western world are too low. There are over 16 million unemployed. We lost our bearings, the prime minister said.

Among the questions that were discussed at the talks is the joint British-U.S. plan of "settlement" in Rhodesia aimed at consolidating the white minority rule, the Middle East question, the coming session of the NATO Council in Washington. The prime minister refused to report the details of the discussion of the preparations for the session, specifically, to state if the question of the neutron bomb was raised. Callaghan was rather pessimistic about the prospects of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East at the given stage.

London, March 24, TASS--The British press is pessimistic about the results of the talks between the British Prime Minister James Callaghan and President Carter. The newspaper TIMES writes specifically that the meeting between Callaghan and Carter shows again the growing concern of the leaders of Western countries about the economic recession. The paper expresses doubts about real opportunities of the West to act jointly for the sake of improvement of the situation.

SENATOR JACKSON'S ADMIRATION OF PEKING NOT SURPRISING

LD241210Y Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 24, TASS--Senator Henry Jackson regards the present Peking leadership above all as a partner of the military-industrial complex of the United States in fanning up anti-Soviet hysteria. This aparently explains the rapturous tone of the Senator's report to the Senate Armed Services Committee after his recent trip to the PRC.

The Senator admires, first of all, Peking s anti-Soviet foreign policy. He notes with satisfaction that the Chinese appreciate the role played by NATO and come out against widening of economic relations of the United States and its West European allies with the Soviet Union, that they support the policy of Western countries in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa. The Senator is particularly overjoyed at the stand of Peking in declaring against the Soviet-American agreement on strategic offensive arms limitation and the talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. This is not surprising, for the views of the Peking leaders coincide with Jackson's stand. And Jackson is the most active adversary of any agreements with the Soviet Union on strategic arms limitation.

COAL MINERS GAIN CONCESSIONS, END STRIKE

LD261833Y Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 26, TASS- The longest strike in the history of the United States, the strike of 160 thousand American miners that lasted for 109 days is over. After persistent and exhaustive struggle against mine owners who were backed by the government which applied against the strikers the antilabour repressive Taft-Hartley Act, representatives of the miners voted for the third draft of the new labour contract, after rejecting the first two ones. The strikers are to resume work on Monday.

Though far from all demands of the miners were granted, they still managed to get a number of concessions from industrialists. Wages will be increased somewhat but the miners will have to make greater contributions to the funds of medical care. A number of punishments and fines for so-called unsanctioned strikes at some coal mines are being abrogated but the sides have not yet reached complete agreement on this matter and negotiations will be continued.

The mine owners rejcted the strikers' demands for the increase of pension and improvement of labour safety. The fact that only 58 percent of the strikers voted approval for the labour agreement shows that the miners are largely dissatisfied with the new agreement.

The coal strike showed the growing solidarity of different sections of the U.S. working people. Farmers of many states of the USA sent food for the miners. The international union, united automobile, aerospace and agricultural implement workers of America, automotive workers unions and the Communication Workers of America contributed several million dollars to the strikers' fund. Meetings of solidarity were held in many American cities. Representatives of different associations of the working people, students and unemployed spoke at these meetings about their support for the miners' struggle and expressed admiration for their courage and unity.

The use of the notorious Taft-Hartley Act against the strikers, the threats to send police and national guards against them and the application of the means of economic pressure on the strikers show gross flouting of the right of American working people to strike and protect their vital interests. The longest strike of miners which was held with great determination showed acuteness of contradictions between labour and capital in the United States.

AMERICA URGED TO BEGIN OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME

LD242323Y Moscow TASS in English 2312 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Setunskiy reports: Millions of Americans are closely following reports from Alabama. Another crime is being prepared in that southern state, the execution of a young black worker John Harris, a fighter against racism and an activist in the civil rights movement. A death sentence was passed on him on trumped-up charges and the Alabama courts rejected all his appeals.

The threat of the judicial murder of John Harris has again attracted attention of the American and world public to the systematic and extremely crude flouting of human rights in the United States, although its leaders are trying to act as "champions" of these rights in other countries. Many Americans outraged by the lawlessness and hypocrisy of the authorities are sending letters to newspaper editors. They protest against monstrous reprisals towards American citizens who are victimized only because their way of thinking does not suit the powers that be. For instance, Mr. G. Canaan of Connecticut says in his letter to the New York TIMES that if the Americans are sincere in their striving for the observance of human rights they should begin by analysing the state of affairs at home.

Social oppression, denying workers the right to employment, denying them protection from privations, police terror against participants in peaceful protest marches, total surveillance by the FBI and the CIA over the "unreliable" and criminal experiments of those police and intelligence services on people--all that has become part and parcel of the American way of life.

And those who dare to protest against the existing ways are subjected to brutal reprisals. American "democracy" will never be able to get rid of the disgrace of the executions meted out to those who organized a movement to defend the right to an 8-hour working day in Chicago, of the execution of Joe Hill, a fighter for the interests of the working people whose name became legend, and of the revolutionary workers Sacco and Vanzetti. The whole of mankind knows that the United States is the birthplace of McCarthyism, the frame-up trials of Communist Party members. Eightysix American communists were convicted because their way of thinking did not suit the authorities.

More than ten disgraceful trials were engineered and held in the United States in 1977 alone. The only guilt of their victims was their fight against injustice, in defence of the rights formally recorded in the U.S. Constitution.

The black poetess Assata Shakur, a civil rights activist was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state of New Jersey. George Merritt a former serviceman, and a member of the executive of the national alliance against racist and political repressions received a life sentence in the same state. And in North Dakota the same lot befell Leonard Peltier who took part in the protest action of the Sioux Indians in the town of Wounded Knee.

In the state of Massachusetts accounts were settled with Sandie Polaski and Marc Bryer, the labour union activists, for organizing a strike. And a group of participants in anti-war manifestations headed by Father Philip Berrigan, were punished for protesting against another round of the arms race.

McCain, Sing Sing, Saint Quentin, Marion, and Attica are not the names of tourist attractions. These are the names of just a few of the many grim jails where political prisoners are held. Among them are the Wilmington Ten, a group of black Americans from North Carolina. They opposed racial segregation and were sentenced to extremely long prison terms of twenty and more years on the absurd charge of setting a grocery store on fire.

The Indian Dakajawaya was sentenced to life imprisonment for taking part in a spontaneous revolt of inmates in Attica Prison who protested against the racist mockery by their jailers. Four Puerto Ricans have been rotting in jail for nearly a quarter century for daring to come out for the freedom and independence of their long-suffering homeland. And this list of the political victims of the American judiciary is far from being complete.

Even thick prison walls are far from always considered sufficient revenge on the "dissenters." That is why the black revolutionary J. Jackson was killed in jail "while trying to escape." That is why it is necessary to stay the hand of the executioner raised over John Harris.

The Washington POST observed a short while ago that the claims of the Carter administration to the laurels of a human rights champion were groundless, to say the least. In the light of all those facts one cannot but agree with this view.

INCREASED RADIATION IN WESTERN U.S. DUE TO CHINESE TEST

LD242200Y Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 24 March, TASS--A drastic increase of radiation as a result of fallout from a radioactive cloud that formed after the recent nuclear test in China has been recorded in western areas of the United States. The biggest increase of radiation--6-8 times higher than norm, was recorded in Colorado and Wyoming, the Environment Protection Agency reports.

AIR FORCE PHANTOM LOSES MISSILE IN ALASKA

LD251300Y Moscow TASS in English 1220 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 25, TASS--A fighter aircraft of the U.S. Airforce lost...a combat missile in the area of the town of Kotzebue (Alaska). The rocket fell from the Phantom plane, which flew out of a base in the town of Galena in Alaska. It was only by some happy accident that there was no explosion and no casualties in the incident.

FIRST SOVIET ASSERTION OF LINK BETWEEN PRC, TERRORISTS

AU241602Y Rome ANSA in English 1525 GMT 24 Mar 78 AU

[Text] Moscow, March 24, (ANSA)--The Soviet publication NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VREMYA] today asserted that there is a direct or indirect link between the kidnapping of Italy's former premier Aldo Moro and Peking which allegedly is giving "instructions" to Italian terrorists, leftist and fascist, through "cover liaison offices". This is the first time a Soviet publication has asserted a theory of this kind. "In Italy as elsehwere", the paper added, "neofascists are assisted, in the most active manner, by extreme leftist organizations and primarily by those who follow a Maoist line. This is obvious every day: Demonstrations organized by leftists and fascists are so identical and synchronized that sometimes it is difficult to identify the real organizers. Both need an atmosphere of tension".

According to NOVOYE VREMYA, "it is also evident the instructions on the 'exasperation of emotions' are given by Peking, directly or indirectly, to the extreme left. It is most probable that there are cover liaison offices. In other words, in practice Maoists help the neofascists to carry out their new tactical plan" which is to "let loose terrorism in Western nations" in order to kill a "democratic renewal". This is confirmed, the paper concludes, by what has been happening in Italy in connection with the Moro kidnapping.

SOVIET ATTEMPTS AT RAPPROCHEMENT IGNORED BY MILITANT PRC

OW261432Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 23 Mar 78 OW

[Text] On 24 February, before the opening of a session of the National People's Congress [NPC], the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium sent a message to the NPC Standing Committee, expressing its concern over the present state of Soviet-Chinese relations. The message stressed that: The existing state of affairs of Soviet-Chinese relations has created an atmosphere of mutual distrust which in turn heightens tensions between our two countries. The vital interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples requires the adoption of definite and practical measures aimed at normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations. In this connection, our station observer Vasilyev comments:

The Chinese leaders attempt to appear to the Chinese and world peoples as advocates of normalized Soviet-Chinese relations, while they actually continue a policy aimed at undermining relations, thus confusing the Chinese people and causing anti-Soviet sentiment. The Chinese leaders' policy became most apparent at the 11th CCP National Congress and first session of the fith NPC held in the past few months. The Chinese leaders crowed at these meetings about their "aspirations" for normalizing Sino-Soviet relations. For instance, the report on government work delivered at the NPC session asserted that we have always held that debates on matters of principle should not impede the maintenace of normal state relations on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. If the Chinese leaders' intention was serious, they should have carried out concrete actions to normalize relations between our two countries. Neither the recent NPC session nor the earlier meeting revealed any willingness on the part of the Chinese to normalize relations with the Soviet Union. Moreover, the Chinese ruling clique has not been receptive to a number of constructive proposals made by the Soviet side. Since China caused the deterioration of relations with the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union has frequently demonstrated its willingness to improve relations with China. The Soviet proposals include the concluding of treaties on nonuse of force, and nonaggression, the holding of a summit meeting of representatives of both countries, and resumption of economic and cultural cooperation, scientific and technological contacts, and cooperation in health services and other fields.

Expressing the goodwill and aspirations of the Soviet people, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in its 24 February message proposed that the two countries issue a joint statement to enhance mutual relations. The Soviet Union believes that a joint statement to build relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence, firmly adhering to the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of each other and nonuse of force, could advance normalization of relations.

The Presidium's message said: The Soviet Union is prepared to receive representatives of the People's Republic of China. If the Chinese leadership deems it expedient, Soviet representatives could visit Peking for the aforementioned purpose. The Soviet Union is also prepared to consider proposals made by China on normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

What actions have the Chinese leadership taken? It has only indicated contempt toward any proposals by the Soviet Union and has even concealed them from the Chinese people. Peking's leaders have declared that they are willing to normalize Sino-Soviet relations on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. (?What else could they say) when they do not want to embody any of these principles with concrete agreements? But facts show that the Chinese leaders' statements are empty. As a matter of fact, they are doing everything in their power to obstruct the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations. The recent NPC session indicated that the Chinese leaders intend to continue promoting hostility toward the Soviet Union as national policy. The behavior of the Chinese leaders demonstrates that they would rather continue tension in Soviet-Chinese relations and incite anti-Sovietism than normalize bilateral relations. Thus, the Chinese leaders are pursuing a policy which is incompatible with the Chinese people's interests and the building of a socialist society in China.

Mao Tse-tung's political successors use the groundless "Soviet threat" to intimidate the Chinese people in an attempt to justify their policy aimed at provoking military conflicts in the world and expanding cooperation with Western reactionaries. Peking's leaders call for the formation of a broad anti-Soviet unitedfront of the most reactionary elements with Chinese participation. Meanwhile, the assertion concerning a "Soviet threat" is also aimed at justifying the Chinese leaders' militarization policy in the country, which is a pretext for perpetuating poverty among the Chinese working people.

If the Chinese Government really wishes to normalize Sino-Soviet relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, it can be easily done. The Soviet Government has proved by its actions that our country is ready to restore friendship and cooperation with the Chinese people. In its message, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium reiterates our readiness.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS REACTS TO SOVIET MESSAGE TO PRC

UPI, Japanese Press

ID241510Y Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

["Following the Old Line"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--TASS commentator Aleksandr Bokhonko writes:

The international press continues commenting on the message by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet sent to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC. This important document clearly expresses the Soviet Union's striving for a normalization of relations with China along the principles of peaceful coexistence with due regard for mutual interests and without any preliminary conditions. Summarizing the main ideas of the message, a correspondent of the UPI agency in Moscow noted that it reflects the Soviet Union's readiness to put an end to the present abnormal situation in the relations between the USSR and the PRC and put an end to the dangerous process of further aggravation of these relations. Hope was expressed in the Soviet circles, he writes, that the Chinese leadership would positively assess the message in order to start a constructive dialog with the aim of radical improvement of interstate relations.

The Soviet message is highly concrete in its contents, the Japanese newspaper MAINICHI noted. It includes a proposal on the issue of a joint statement to reaffirm on a mutual basis the wish of both sides to improve relations. Thus, the Soviet leaders have expressed the most persistent ever striving for a normalization of Chinese-Soviet relations. The Indian newspaper INDIAN EXPRESS draws attention to the fact that the Soviet Union has displayed an important initiative by trying to resume the dialogue with China. The Soviet Union, the newspaper BERLINER ZEITUNG notes in its turn, has already repeatedly come out with constructive initiatives aimed at normalizing relations between the USSR and the PRC.

The Soviet initiative aroused quite different repercussions in China. Addressing a meeting with a CDU/CSU delegation led by chairman of the CSU land group in Bundestag, Zimmerman, currently on a visit in Peking, vice premier of the PRC State Council Teng Hsiao-ping again used the hackneyed fabrications about a "threat from Moscow" and went so far as to make absurd allegations that the Soviet Union is...preparing to attack China. This slanderous statement is added proof of the fact that the PRC leadership, as earlier, holds a negative stand on the question of improvement of relations between the two countries. In all evidence, tension in Soviet-Chinese relations, the artificial whipping up of anti-Sovietism better suit the book of some people in China than a normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

MPRP Paper Praises Proposal

LD251306Y Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

["Fresh Step of Good Will"--TASS headline]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 25, TASS--The people of Socialist Mongolia regards the address by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations as fresh vivid proof of the consistent implementation of the peaceloving foreign policy of the Soviet state, writes the newspaper UNEN, a publication of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] Central Committee. The Soviet Union has again displayed goodwill by calling upon the PRC to normalize relations along the principles of peaceful coexistence with due regard for mutual interests and without any preliminary conditions.

The situation in the world today, the newspaper goes on to write, due to the efforts of the USSR and other fraternal socialist countries is characterised above all by international detente, strengthening of the forces of socialism, democracy and peace. But the reactionary forces of imperialism do not wish to reconcile themselves with it. They are trying to block the process of detente, to revive the cold war times. The same line is pursued also by the present Peking leadership.

The proceedings of the recent session of the National People's Congress of the PRC indicate that Peking continues actively propagating the proposition of inevitibility of war. Mao Tse-tung's followers are engaged in a slanderous campaign against the USSR and other socialist countries. The line of confrontation with the Soviet Union has been made state policy by them.

The Mongolian people, the newspaper goes on, knows well that the Soviet Union sincerely strives to normalise relations with the PRC. Proceeding from it, as well as from the interests of peoples of the whole world, the USSR put forward earlier and is putting forward now specific constructive proposals. But the Chinese side either rejected them, or left them unanswered.

The negative attitude of the Chinese leaders to the fresh Soviet initiative is explained by the fact that the Peking leadership continues clinging tenaciously to the unacceptable conditions put forward by it earlier and is continuing its hostile attitude towards the Soviet Union.

The address by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the newspaper UNEN writes in conclusion, has once again graphically shown that the Soviet Union is building its relations with the PRC like with other countries on the basis of equality, respect for sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and nonuse of force. The striving for a normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations is indicative of the fidelity of the Soviet people to the principles of the Leninist foreign policy. The restoration of relations of cooperation and good neighbourliness is in the interests of not only the Soviet and Chinese peoples, but also in the interests of the peoples of the Far East, Asia and the whole world. Everything depends now on what stand will be taken by the Chinese leaders.

Polish Newspaper Comment

LD241112Y Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Warsaw, March 24, TASS--Consistently pursuing the Leninist peace policy, the Soviet Union is making constructive efforts directed at normalising and broadening relations with other states, writes the newspaper TRYBUNA LUDU, a publication of the Polish United Workers Party CC. The results achieved in this field make one of the most essential prerequisites for the process of detente contributing towards international stabilisation and cooperation for peace. It is precisely these aims that underlie the message by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet sent on February 24 to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The initiative displayed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet was aimed at normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations, at building them along the principles of goodneighbourly cooperation.

It must be recalled, the newspaper notes, that it was not the first proposal to normalise relations. The Soviet Union has for many years now been taking steps aimed at improving relations with China.

All of these initiatives were, however, rejected by the Chinese side, or remained unanswered. The PRC Government showed the same attitude to the latest message by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The results of the first session of the National People's Congress of the fifth convocation have shown that the Chinese leadership is evading a discussion in essence on the question of normalisation of relations with the USSR and intends to pursue further its policy, which is hostile to the Soviet Union.

True, the PRC Government, TRYBUNA LUDU notes, has declared several times that it comes out for shaping relations with other states along the principles of peaceful coexistence, and this also concerns the Soviet Union. But it failed to match words to deeds, which has been borne out by the reaction to the latest Soviet proposal. Moreover, it has already become almost a rule, that each initiative of the USSR aimed at normalizing relations with the PRC touches off a fresh wave of anti-Soviet attacks. This was also the case at the recent session of the National People's Congress. All this indicates that the present Chinese leadership does not strive for an improvement of relations with the USSR.

The hostile attitude to the USSR being whipped up in China is the basis of Peking's policy against the easing of international tension, is the starting point in the attempts to knock together an anti-Soviet, anti-socialist front. Therefore, the negative stand of the Chinese leadership on the proposal on normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations concerns not only these two states, but also runs counter to the main trend of the present--the striving to strengthen the fundamentals of peaceful coexistence of peoples. The fresh Soviet initiatives containing constructive proposals, the article says in conclusion, express the goodwill of the USSR and show that in spite of the enmity on the part of the PRC leaders, the Soviet Union does not give up attempts at improving relations between the two states. Poland, pursuing in alliance with the USSR and the other brother countries a policy of peace and international cooperation, fully supports these efforts. We realize that their results depend on the attitude of the Chinese side to the Soviet initiatives imbued with goodwill.

PRC EXPECTED TO 'AIN 'FAVORED NATION' STATUS FROM EEC

LD2412?8Y Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

["Aims of the Maoists"--TASS headline]

[Text] Brussels, March 24, TASS--Chinese Foreign Trade Minister Li Chiang, who left Peking on Thursday for a visit to Egypt and a number of West European Common Market member countries, is reported to intend to sign in Brussels a trade agreement with the EEC providing for the granting to China of the most favoured nation treatment. Commenting on Li Chiang's trip, observers note that the line towards rapproachement with the EEC being pursued by Peking for several years now has the definite aim of using the Common Market for further planting itself in NATO, in order to team up with this bloc on an anti-Soviet instigatory platform and simultaneously win wide access to the markets of weapons and military equipment for a modernisation of its army.

ASIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF CHINESE SUBVERSION CITED

OW2603?9Y Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0630 GMT 24 Mar 78 OW

[Korolev commentary: "Peking's Sabotage Activities in Asian Countries"]

[Text] (THUNDER) weekly has cited many facts to prove that Peking is still trying to revive underground antigovernment activities in India in order to serve its selfish anti-India policy. India has announced that elements of a secessionist organization in Nagaland state received military training at [words indistinct] training camp in Yunnan Province, after which they crossed the border to engage in espionage. Peking finances these groups in order to create confusion in India.

(THUNDER) weekly points out: The purpose of the sabotage activities of the so-called [words indistinct] independence movement, which has been organized by Peking agents, is to exert pressure so that India will be forced to agree with Peking's position on the border issue. Peking has (?stationed troops) in strategic positions near Nagaland state, in other border areas and in Tibet.

The present Chinese leaders talk as though they want to maintain good relations with neighboring countries. However, judging by their actions, their words are nothing but a smokescreen to conceal their expansionist policy, just as they have done in the past. A report from Manila says the so-called New People's Army--a pro-Peking organization--is increasing its activities in certain areas of the Philippines. The Rangoon LABOR TIMES also reported that China has furnished aid to rebel movements in Burma. In order to achieve its expansionist goal, China has tried to create instability in its neighboring countries and lower the prestige of their governments.

[Words indistinct] paper in Indonesia reported that Indonesia is quite worried about Chinese intervention. Chinese spies have lived in Indonesia as Overseas Chinese residents and, just recently, a major underground espionage organization serving Chinese interests was discovered in Indonesia. According to a Djakarta newspaper report, that organization includes more than 100 Chinese nationals, including some Chinese citizens. Mao Tse-tung said that China must control Southeast Asia, a region with abundant natural resources. He stressed that this aim was worthwhile enough to spend money and energy. In energetically performing sabotage, the present Peking leaders are following Mao Tse-tung's instructions.

WORLD ANTI-SOVIET MOVEMENT SOUGHT BY PEKING

LD241700Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1230 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The session of the fifth National People's Congress in Peking in early March put special stress on forming a broad international front against what was termed hegemonism. Today, our commentator Vasiliy Fedorov discusses what is behind the Peking leaders' rhetoric. He says:

The report on the government's performance to the National People's Congress spelled out the formula as meaning opposition to two countries, the Soviet Union and the United States. Then followed a lot of qualifications, indicating that the USSR is allegedly the most ominous seat of world war. Thus,the United States is forced to defend itself and in general it would be the right thing to develop relations with Washington. In a word, the report says in no uncertain terms, that the fight against hegemonism is spearheaded against the Soviet Union, against its peaceful foreign policy.

The Soviet Union wants equitable and fair international relations. It doesn't seek one-sided advantages or profits. Neither does it advance any territorial claims. Then why do the Peking leaders accuse the Soviet Union of hegemonism and why do they call for a struggle against it?

The reasons lie in the policies of the Chinese leaders themselves for it's they who have launched on a great power and nationalistic course and hence mounted a frenzied struggle against the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community. This [word indistinct] was only natural, for the Chinese leaders rightly understand that the peace policies of the socialist community are the main barrier to their own plans for domination because the socialist states base their policies on principles of equality of all nations, both big and small, and the inviolability of existing state frontiers, on noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states. The socialist countries are working to implement those principles in international relations, something that promotes a healthy international political climate.

The Chinese leaders, on the other hand, are doing what they can to aggravate the international situation. They sow conflicts wherever possible, for Peking is not interested in lasting peace. It well understands that the most favorable situation would be quarrels and differences among states. For its own great power plan, it is prepared to push mankind into another world war, in order to build a new society, after the Mao Tse-tung model, on the ruins of civilization. The anti-socialist foreign policies of the Chinese leadership are parallel only to the aggressive policies of the imperialists. That is the explanation for Peking's rapprochement with the West. Peking has recognized the imperialists as desirable allies with whom they hope to mount an advance against the peace policies of the socialist community, to wreck detente and push ahead the arms race. That's borne out by a recent talk Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping had with a representative of the revenge-seeking circles of the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich Zimmermann. Teng Hsiao-ping made it clear that from his viewpoint China and Japan must jointly pose a threat to the Soviet Union in the East whilst the United States and the Western European states in the West. In this context, Teng Hsiao-ping urged the Western states to arm and to arm quickly. So you see, Peking has thought out all the details of the so-called antihegemony front. They believe that with its aid and by neutralizing the Soviet Union and the socialist community they can strike up a deal with the imperialists and in the final count recast the map of the world. It's easy to imagine what the fate of the developing nations would be as it is their natural resources that have whetted the appetites of both the imperialists and the Peking leaders.

The antihegemony front call, sounded at the recent session of the National People's Congress in Peking, confirms yet again that the incumbent leaders of China are keeping to Maoist positions as far as foreign policy is concerned. An integral feature of this policy is aggressiveness, a (?hope) to come to an agreement with the imperialists and hostility to the forces of world socialism.

WPC'S CHANDRA SCORES PRC FOREIGN POLICY IN TASS INTERVIEW

LD221424Y Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 22, TASS--It is a cause of regret to all who champion peace on earth that the leadership of the People's Republic of China has turned down yet another initiative of the Soviet Union towards normalization of relations between the two countries, a TASS correspondent has been told by Romesh Chandra, president of the World Council of Peace. The Soviet Union, wholly and entirely devoted to the cause of peace and friendship between peoples, repeatedly advanced the most rational proposals to Peking, the adoption of which would promote settlement of the existing differences, R. Chandra said. But every time these proposals were turned down on this or another pretext. Such a stand of the Chinese leadership reflects its foreign policy course which becomes increasingly more at variance with the policy of peace and security on earth, the relaxation of international tension.

Practically on all matters Peking sides with the forces of imperialism and reaction, said the president of the World Council of Peace. China prevents full prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. Being against the legitimate government of Angola, Peking also supports the white minority rule in South Africa, the reactionary regime in Chile, the revanchist forces in the European Continent. Peking, R. Chandra said, advocates a rise in the strength of American troops in Europe and the Pacific Ocean basin. On the most important issues in the United Nations and other international forums Chinese delegates concentrate their attention on anti-Soviet attacks, this patently showing their direct links with the forces of imperialism.

BILAK SPEECH AT SLOVAK PARTY MEETING REPORTED

LD262344Y Moscow TASS in English 2020 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bratislava, March 26, TASS--Our each success, each step forward was, is and will be for a long time the result of persistent struggle against reactionary forces, said Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, speaking here at a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia. In this struggle we are confronted with an experienced and ruthless adversary. It demagogically distorts the truth about real socialism and in every way seeks to conceal the ailments and the anti-national character of imperialism.

The anti-communist centres show a "particular attention to and concern for" the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. They, apart from everything else, as Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, said at the March plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee, do not want to reconcile themselves with the fact that the plans for a counter-revolutionary coup in Czechoslovakia sustained a fiasco.

A dangerous blow was to be dealt ten years ago, according to those plans, at the unity of the Warsaw Treaty states, at the positions of socialism in general so as to create conditions for an offensive by the most reactionary forces against progress and peace.

We recall this reality because we were unwary and allowed the creeping counter-revolution to go so far that there was no other way then to ask assistance from our friends and allies, and for them, too, that was not a simple and easy matter, Vasil Bilak said. They approached that important step aware of a great responsibility.

The years that have passed since the moment of the historic decision fully confirmed that it was correct and necessary. That was the manifestation of an extraordinary moral strength and valour of our allies and their devotion to communist ideals. The future of socialism in Czechoslovakia was defended. Moreover, and this is what reactionary forces should not forget, the collective strength of the countries of the socialist community barred the way to world imperialism's concerted attack.

CSSR-SFRY COMMUNIQUE ON CHNOUPEK'S VISIT NOTED

LD241730Y Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, March 24, TASS--The consistent deepening of the process of relaxation of international tension is of tremendous importance for the strengthening of peace and security, trust and the development of peaceful cooperation in Europe and other parts of the world, says a communique published here on the visit to Yugoslavia by the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister B. Chnoupek.

The document says that socialist countries play an important role in strengthening international security and in the social progress of mankind. The non-alignment movement, too, holds a major place in the struggle for peace and international cooperation.

The communique says that the arms race presents the biggest danger to peace and security.

The sides strongly condemned Israel's occupation of Arab territories and its aggression in the south of Lebanon. Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, the document says, support the struggle of the Palestinian people for its sovereign national rights, for creating its own independent state and recognise the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They declared for the speediest convocation of the Geneva conference on the Middle East with the participation of all interested countries, including the PLO as a full-fledged partner.

The sides stressed with satisfaction that Yugoslav-Czechoslovak relations are successfully developing in many spheres, including the economic one.

GDR PEACE COUNCIL DEMANDS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

LD241924Y Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 24, TASS--Israel's barbarous invasion of Lebanon is a dangerous act of encroachment upon territorial integrity of the sovereign state and a provocation leveled against peace on earth, says a statement of the GDR Council of Peace which has been circulated here.

By this bloody campaign Israel and imperialist forces behind it pursue the aim of eliminating the Arab people of Palestine and their legitimate representative--the Palestine Liberation Organization, fighting for peace, freedom and justice, and also democratic and patriotic forces of Lebanon. The GDR Council of Peace demands immediate termination of Israel's aggression and withdrawal of its occupation troops the statement points out.

BRANDT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST

LD241822Y Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Budapest, March 24, TASS--The chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, Willy Brandt, who is staying in Hungary on the invitation of Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, held a press conference here.

Replying to a question by a TASS correspondent about the significance of the expected visit to the FRG by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, Willy Brandt said: I regard Leonid Brezhnev's planned visit as an extremely important one. It is with interest and big hopes that we expect Leonid Brezhnev's forthcoming visit for two reasons. On the one hand, we believe that such a meeting makes it possible to discuss bilateral cooperation for subsequent years. On the other hand, I am convinced that such meetings can give new impulses in the field of disarmament and detente for subsequent years.

Dwelling on questions of disarmament, the SDP chairman expressed hope that the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks will produce results already this year.

Concerning the talks in Vienna, Willy Brandt said: If it will prove possible to successfully conclude the SALT talks this year, then a possibility will open at the Vienna talks for concluding next year an agreement at least on the stabilisation of armaments.

PROTEST MOUNTS OVER CANADIAN BANKS DEALING WITH S. AFRICA

LD241206Y Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ottawa, March 24, TASS--In Canada, there is a mounting movement of protest against the country's five major banks, which give loans to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and thereby support the regime of apartheid and violence. Trade unions, public organizations, student unions, church and charitable organizations of Canada started withdrawing their money deposits from these banks.

The Canadian Labour Congress, the country's major trade-union association, is transferring its deposits from the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia to loan companies and banks. The Canadian National Union of Public Employees is terminating all relations with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The United Committee of Canadian Churches, the National Student Federation of Canada, the Union of Canadian Students Abroad, and a number of other organizations stated that the withdrawal of money deposits from the Canadian banks pursues the aim of exerting pressure on those banks so that they cease rendering financial support to the racist regime in the Republic of South Africa.

As a result of the campaign, the banks are expected to lose tens of millions of dollars worth of deposits.

The Quebec authorities decided to discontinue importing wines from South Africa into the province in token of protest against the cruel treatment of political prisoners in the Republic of South Africa.

'REACTIONARY' ITALIAN FORCES HIT FORMER MAYOR OF TURIN

LD242046Y Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Rome, March 24, TASS--A new provocation has been committed in Italy today. Giovanni Picco, an ex-mayor of Turin, councillor of the regional junta from the Christian Democratic Party, was wounded today when several shots were fired at him in Turin. Judging by the first reports, yet another bloody crime is imputed to the same reactionary forces which arranged Aldo Moro's abduction.

STRAUSS BLAMED FOR STARFIGHTER CRASHES, DEATHS IN FRG

LD261134Y Moscow TASS in English 1112 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 26, TASS--Nearly 200 Bundeswehr's war planes of the Starfighter type have crashed already. About one hundred pilots were killed. Who is to blame for the pilots' death? This question is asked by the West German weekly DIE TAT and the weekly answers it tersely: Strauss is to blame.

The weekly recalls that it was the chairman of the Bavarian CSU Party Franz Josef Strauss who, as the FRG defence minister, issued in 1959 a directive about purchases of Starfighter planes from the U.S. Lockheed corporation. This decision was made despite the fact that the development of these planes was not yet completed. As a result of this, Starfighter planes with which the Bundeswehr is armed crash one after another and many pilots die. These planes are aptly called "flying coffins." There is no longer any doubt that Starfighters crash because of flaws in their design.

Pointing out that the U.S. Lockheed Corporation was lavish with bribes to market in Western countries its planes, including Starfighters, DIE TAT points out that it is precisely Strauss who decided on purchasing the company's planes and that this was done bypassing the established regulations for arranging such deliveries.

Suspicions of corruption are heightened in view of the fact that all documents related to the activity of ex-Minister of Defence Strauss and specifically to the purchases of Starfighter planes mysteriously disappeared from the archives.

All these facts make it possible to draw the conclusion that it is precisely Strauss who bears political responsibility for the fact that pilots continue dying in crashes of Starfighter planes, the weekly writes.

DUTCH POLITICAL UPHEAVALS OVER NEUTRON BOMB NOTED

LD201555Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] The lower chamber of the Dutch parliament has discussed the question of the neutron bomb. This question was included on the parliamentary agenda as a result of a movement which has seized the entire country--the movement against the barbaric new weapon--and over 1 million signatures have been collected to a petition demanding that it be banned.

In his speech in parliament Defense Minister B. Kruisinga stated that the Netherlands would oppose the adoption of the neutron bomb and do everything possible to prevent NATO from acquiring it.

It was reported that Kruisinga's statement was repudiated first by Foreign Minister van der Klaau, and by Prime Minister van Agt. According to them the defense minister had expressed his personal opinion and not the opinion of the cabinet.

Then Kruisinga resigned. But the matter did not end here. The ballot in the lower chamber showed that it was not he but those who disagreed with him who were expressing their personal opinion. The resolution adopted by the chamber contains an appeal to the government to inform all NATO states of the Dutch parliamentarians' disagreement with the plans to produce the neutron bomb in the United States and deploy it in Europe. It is characteristic that the Christian Democrats, that is, the representatives of the bloc of parties to which the former defense minister and the prime minister who has accepted his resignation belong, voted for this resolution.

The significance of what happened in the lower chamber of the Netherlands States General (parliament) goes far beyond the framework of this country. Let us recall that an international conference of representatives of the most diverse social circles was held recently in Geneva for the prohibition of the neutron bomb, while in Helsinki the parliamentarians of many countries of Europe, the United States, Canada, Latin America and Asia who assembled in the Finnish capital at the initiative of the WPC said "No! To the neutron bomb." As for the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies, as well as participating in international forums, they have adopted a special appeal to the parliamentary groups and all parliamentarians of the West European states, the United States and Canada, suggesting that they use their high authority and influence to bar the way to the neutron bomb.

If the parliamentarians of these countries are aware of their responsibility to the voters, they should prompt their governments to adopt the Soviet Union's proposal to hold talks immediately with a view to concluding an international agreement on the mutual renunciation of the production of the neutron bomb.

FINNISH CP MEMBERS, OTHERS DENOUNCE NEUTRON BOMB

LD251945Y Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, March 25, TASS--The Finnish newspaper TIEDONANTAJA has addressed a number of leading political figures of Finland with the request that they express their opinion of the Pentagon's intention to produce the neutron bomb.

Chairman of the Finnish Communist Party A. Saarinen said in answer to the question that the Communist Party of Finland has come out with a demand for a ban on the neutron bomb, and the Finnish people is waging an active struggle against the plans to manufacture this deadly weapon. Finland, he stressed, has every opportunity to come out actively in the international arena for a ban on the neutron bomb. Vice-chairman of the Communist Party of Finland T. Sinisalo said that plans to manufacture this weapon are in crying conflict with the striving of peoples for disarmament, and implementation of these plans would mean a fresh round of the arms race. Only a ban on the neutron bomb will contribute towards the cause of peace, T. Sinisalo said.

Chairman of the Swedish People's Party P. Stenbaeck stressed that it is necessary to discuss without delay this question at the international forum. Only a ban on the new type of the lethal weapon may contribute towards strengthening peace, he said.

The development of new types of mass destruction weapons has a negative effect on the process of detente and the struggle for disarmament said General Secretary of the Social-Democratic Party of Finland Ulf Sundquist. The neutron bomb increases the threat of nuclear war. Finland appears as an active advocate of disarmament and the Social-Democratic Party supports in every way this foreign policy line of the Finnish Government.

Secretary General of the Centre Party M. Immonen noted that his party resolutely comes out against the development of new types of the mass destruction weapon and demands a ban on the neutron bomb. This lethal weapon carries a threat to all peoples of the world, he said. It is necessary to convene an international forum within the U.N. framework and demand a ban on the neutron bomb.

RESULTS OF AMSTERDAM FORUM VIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVES

Soviet Peace Committee Official

LD242225Y Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--"The Soviet public associates itself with the mounting struggle of West European peoples against production of neutron weapon and its deployment on European soil. We note with profound satisfaction that many speeches, made at the Amsterdam forum, widely reflected the European public support for Soviet proposals made to Western countries on mutual renunciation of production of neutron weapons," a TASS correspondent has been told by Oleg Kharkhardin, deputy chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee.

Oleg Kharkhardin participated in the international forum "Stop the Neutron Bomb!" which was held in Amsterdam a few days ago.

With all the differences in the approach to concrete aspects of such a world problem as disarmament, the participants in the forum were able to come to agreement on the main directions of further struggle for prohibition of the neutron weapon, Kharkhardin said.

The appeal, made by the forum to the peoples and governments of the countries of the world, expresses profound concern and anxiety over the U.S. military circles' decision to start neutron bomb production, the Soviet representative recalled. The participants in the Amsterdam meeting called upon all and everyone to display all possible initiatives, to exert every effort for the sake of the future, for the sake of life itself. "It is inadmissible that neutron bomb production should further escalate the arms race, both conventional and nuclear", the forum's appeal says.

The decisions and the results of the forum, Oleg Kharkhardin noted, have enlisted powerful support of the Dutch public. Already the next day after its closure, tens of thousands people participated in mass demonstrations and meetings. Since the time of the world war the Netherlands has never seen such a mass manifestation of anti-war activity.

"The present scope of the public movement against the neutron bomb shows that the peoples are more actively interfering into questions of war and peace, are making an even more tangible, positive contribution to the process of restructuring the system of international relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence, disarmament, and detente", Oleg Kharkhardin stressed.

Belgian CP Official

LD251316Y Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

["Event of Great Importance"--TASS headline]

[Text] Brussels, March 25, TASS-The international forum against the neutron bomb that was held in Amsterdam some days ago has great political significance. The consequences of this event will, undoubtedly, have influence on all West European countries, Albert de Coninck, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Belgium, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium said in an interview to a TASS correspondent.

It can be declared with surety that NATO's recent decision to put off indefinitely the discussion of the Pentagon's plans about production of this horrible weapon of mass annihilation is a direct consequence of the Amsterdam forum.

From the time it became known that the United States is going to start production of the neutron bomb and to deploy it on the territory of Western Europe, the Communist Party of Belgium invariably declared against these plans.

The Communist Party of Belgium is making efforts to enlist broad masses for the struggle against attempts of the United States to impose neutron weapons on Western Europe, Albert de Coninck said.

A mass demonstration of Belgian working people for disarmament against the neutron bomb and the threat it constitutes to the most fundamental human right, the right to live, will be held in May in Brussels. About 40 various organisations and movements uniting millions of people are taking part in the preparations of this important event for the country, together with the Communist Party of Belgium, he said. The Communists, progressive and democratic public of Belgium support the Soviet proposals aimed at banning this barbarous weapon and mutual renunciations of its production, Albert

MATERIAL ON RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S., ISRAEL, EGYPT

Sinai Bases; CENTO Membership

LD2509447 Moscow TASS in English 0745 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 25, TASS--Anwar as-Sadat's positive reaction to the United States' proposal to join the CENTO military bloc indicates that he consents to the role that U.S. imperialism assigns to Egypt in its plans, writes the Soviet army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. This is also confirmed by promises given by the Egyptian president during the visit to Washington to keep from using U.S. weapons, if he receives them, against Israel, which is occupying Egyptian and Arab lands.

Abandoning the course of anti-imperialist struggle and making a stake on the United States, Anwar as-Sadat hoped to ensure that Israeli troops leave all Egyptian lands, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. But the president's hopes are being dashed. The Tel Aviv ruling circles loudly declare that they will never leave militarized settlements in the Sinai Peninsula at the mercy of fate.

According to the weekly U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, which is close to the Pentagon circles, the U.S. administration is considering in earnest the possibility of building a U.S. air base to guarantee Israel's security, the newspaper writes. It is planned to set up such a base nowhere else than in the Israeli-held part of the Sinai Peninsula. Such is the double strategy of U.S. imperialism--to draw Egypt in its orbit and to ensure the security of the Zionist state at its expense.

"A possible entry in the CENTO military bloc, a U.S. military base in the Sinai and the unsavoury participation in the conflict in the Horn of Africa--such are the milestones of the road along which Egypt is now being taken by its president, Anwar as-Sadat. This is a dangerous road which is contrary to the vital interests of the Egyptian people," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes.

Kamil, Boumediene Remarks

LD2623207 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--According to a report from Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil stated after the meeting of the National Security Council in Cairo that Egypt continues to come out for "peaceful talks" with Israel on the question of a Middle East "settlement" and would welcome the establishment of "goodneighbourly relations" with it. It is noteworthy that the statement was made at a time when the disastrous consequences of the Egyptian President as-Sadat's capitulatory policy become increasingly evident. The policy, in particular, untied Israel's hands for the large-scale invasion of Lebanon.

Commenting on the minister's statement, the New York TIMES newspaper points out that the stand of the Egyptian leadership is explained by its attempts to save, whatever the cost, the initiative of As-Sadat, who embarked on the road of separate deals with Tel Aviv.

At present Egyptian propaganda seeks to show that As-Sadat expects the United States to exert such a pressure on Tel Aviv which would lead to the [word indistinct] of its tough stand. In the process, prominence is being given to alleged "differences" between the partners which were ostensibly disclosed during the Israeli Prime Minister Begin's recent visit to the USA.

In [words indistinct] as is well known, Washington and Tel Aviv pursue a coordinated policy in the Middle East. The United States gives all kind of support to the Israeli aggressor, including the supply of the most up-to-date weapons which are used for the suppression of the Arab national-liberation movement. Israel's territorial claims meet the U.S. strategic plans in that part of the world.

The New York TIMES points in this connection to the United States' interest in keeping practical control over Israeli air bases in the occupied Sinai Peninsula. The newspaper writes that at least one of the bases--Etzion, situated near Elat Port--is being used by the U.S. Air Force for long-range reconnaissance flights over the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the western areas of the Indian Ocean. The base is being also regarded by Washington strategists as vitally essential for controling sea lanes leading from the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf to the USA and Western Europe.

The three-sided collusion between the USA, Israel and Egypt continues to give rise to vigorous protests in Arab countries. Speaking at the opening of the congress of the general union of Algerian Workers, Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, stated that the aim of the collusion is first of all to undermine the unity of the Arab world. As for the separate deals course pursued by As-Sadat, the Algerian president went on to say, it resulted at present in the betrayal of the Arab people of Palestine and in Egypt's isolation, which only plays into the hand of the Israeli aggressor.

ALGERIAN UNION CONGRESS, BOUMEDIENE SPEECH REPORTED

LD261855Y Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, March 26, TASS--(From Aleksandr Bolmatov, a TASS correspondent) The congress of the General Union of Algerian Workers continues its work in the Algerian capital.

Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerial People's Democratic Republic, chairman of the Revolutionary Council, made a big speech at the opening of the congress. He pointed to the great role of mass organizations in the realisation of progressive social transformations and the necessity of their further rallying around the National Liberation Front (FLN) party.

Those who recognize the national charter and strive for its practical implementation must be members of the FLN party and public organizations, the head of state emphasised. Houari Boumediene noted the necessity to struggle against counter-revolutionary elements which under various guises come out against revolutionary transformations. Our country's future is connected with the building of a socialist society which will be built notwithstanding the difficulties and obstacles, the head of state said.

Touching upon the Middle East problem, Houari Boumediene condemned As-Sadat's capitulatory policy, which serves the interests of imperialism and Zionism and is directed against the interests of the Arab people of Palestine.

Abdelkader Bennikous, secretary-general of the General Union of Algerian Workers, made a report at the congress. He emphasised the important role of the participation of the members of trade unions in the country's socio-economic life, in the striving to raise productivity and expand production. The report notes the necessity for workers' participation in the socialist management of enterprises in all spheres of the Algerian economy.

The raising of the professional training of workers, the improvement of the working conditions, and strict observance of labour legislation are an earnest of success in the struggle for the building of a new society, Abdelkader Bennikous said.

The secretary-general of the General Union of Algerian Workers noted the necessity to broaden the rights of trade union organizations at enterprises. He also spoke of the necessity to raise the political consciousness of the working people, stating that this is the most important condition for the building of a socialist society in the Algerian People's Democratic Republic.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON

Guerrilla Attacks; 'Arafat Interview

LD261740Y Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 26, TASS--Making use of the situation that not all areas captured by the Israeli aggressors in Lebanon's south have been brought under the control of the U.N. troops, the Israeli military there continue pursuing the policy of physical extermination of Palestinian patriots and all other forces which resist the Israelis. Over the past twenty-four hours Israeli artillery massively shelled the positions of the Palestinian resistance movement and national-patriotic forces in the areas of Nabatiyah, Kawkaba and Hasbani bridge. As the Palestinian news agency reports, artillery of the united detachments of the Palestinian resistance movement and the national-patriotic forces delivered retaliatory firing strikes at the concentrations of Israeli troops.

It is reported from the occupied areas in Lebanon's south that General Gur, chief of the General Staff of Israel's Armed Forces, made an "inspection tour" of them. In Marj 'Uyun he met with Major Haddam, commander of the rightist-Christian forces, and assured him of Israel's intention to continue to render all kind of support to those forces.

A guerrilla movement is developing on an increasing scale in the invaders' rear areas. In the area of Tallat and (?Blat) inhabited localities, guerrillas attacked convoys of Israeli military trucks and inflicted big losses on the enemy. An Israeli armoured personnel carrier was damaged on a section of the Marj 'Uyun-Ibil as-Saqi road.

Budapest, March 26, TASS--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said in a Hungarian television interview that the aim of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon was to destroy the Palestinian movement and the Lebanese national-patriotic forces.

He emphasised that the aggressor has been preparing for the "operation" for six years and started realising it with the knowledge and consent of Washington. Israel used in southern Lebanon most up-to-date types of U.S. weapons including the F-15 fighter bombers which were recently supplied to it by the USA. The consequence of the Egyptian President Sadat's capitulatory policy, which untied the aggressor's hands.

The patriots frustrated the Tel Aviv rulers' calculations for a victory within numbered hours, Yasir 'Arafat went on to say. Despite its military advantage the aggressor failed to suppress the Palestinian revolution. "We shall carry on struggle until southern Lebanon is cleared from the Israelis", the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee emphasised.

Yasir 'Arafat noted a special importance of the cooperation of the Arab people of Palestine with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in the ensurance of the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

Israeli Policy of Genocide

LD260936Y Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

["Aggression Must Be Ended"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--Israel's present aggression in Lebanon as a result of which the occupiers now control 17 percent of the territory of this sovereign state is nothing else than another manifestation of the old militarist expansionist policy conducted by Tel Aviv, Arkadiy Maslennikov writes in PRAVDA.

The Israeli rulers make no secret that in launching an invasion of Lebanon, barbarously bombing and shelling Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, they pursue the aim of destroying the greatest possible number of Palestinians who are fighting for the right to live in their native land. This policy of Israel can hardly be described in any other wan than as genocide, the author writes.

Characteristically, political leaders beyond the ocean who clamour hypocritically about alleged violations of human rights in socialist countries did not come out with a single word of condemnation of the Tel Aviv militarists that cynically and in cold blood seek to destroy a whole people.

Moreover, official representatives of Washington, to which Israeli Prime Minister Begin paid last week another friendly visit, declared that they have an understanding for Israel's policy on the Lebanese question.

No matter what publicity is given now to "differences" allegedly existing between Begin and Carter, it is a fact that Israel was and is the main ally and active assistant of the U.S. monopoly circles in their struggle against the national liberation movement, against the forces of democracy and progress in the Arab east.

The author points out that a durable peace and stability in the area can be established not through "guarantees of security" which Israel would like to achieve by seizing lands of others and flouting vital interests of Arab peoples; it can be established through immediate and complete withdrawal of the aggressor's troops from all Arab lands occupied in 1967, through the granting of the right to self-determination to the Palestinian Arab people and ensurance of independent existence of all states in the area. There exists also a reliable instrument for a just settlement, the Geneva conference, the article says.

Iraqi Communist's Views

LD252156Y Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, March 25, TASS--The heroic struggle of the Palestinian resistance movement and the Lebanese national patriotic forces and the widescale international campaign of protest against the Israeli aggression frustrated the criminal designs of Tel Aviv which tried to liquidate the Palestinian revolution, 'Abd Ar-Rida, member of the Central Committee of the Iraqi Communist Party, writes in the newspaper TARIQ ASH-SHA'B. The events in southern Lebanon showed, he emphasizes, the necessity to redouble efforts [words indistinct] various detachments of the Arab national-liberation movement and to strengthen relations between them and the world's progressive forces headed by the countries of the socialist community.

Tour by Journalists

LD261002Y Moscow TASS in English 0915 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--Immediate implementation of the just demand of the Lebanese for withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Lebanese territory is a very topical question now, writes PRAVDA's own correspondent, Konstantin Geyvandov, who toured the south of Lebanon with a group of journalists.

The tragic consequences of Israel's barbarous aggression are evident everywhere in the land of south Lebanon. Destruction is seen everywhere, the article says. A considerable material damage was inflicted on the town of Tyre by Israeli heavy bombings and shelling from the sea. No more than 500 people remain in the town that had a population of 40 thousand and they, too, are going to leave the town in a few weeks time, for the troops of the aggressor got entrenched only three kilometres away, and new armed provocations of interventionists can be expected any moment.

Coming up against a rebuff, the Israeli command announced ceasefire, one of the defenders of Tyre told the correspondent. But this was only a deceptive manoeuvre. The occupiers bring reinforcements to the frontline. At night they shell the positions of the town's defenders from mortars and warships. Besides that, acting jointly with armed formations of the conservative Lebanese groupings, Israel now tries to frustrate implementation of the decision of the United Nations Security Council, specifically to prevent the entry of United Nations forces in the south Lebanese districts.

It is now clear to all that the intervention against a sovereign state, Israel's neighbour, has been prepared and planned in detail for long with the blessing of Israel's main ally, the United States' ruling circles, M. Labadi, an official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, told the correspondent. Israeli expansionists revealed their aggressive essence again. But Tel Aviv was unable to intimidate the Lebanese and the Palestinians. The Palestinians have not given up the struggle for restoration of their flouted rights, against the capitulatory plans of settlement in the Middle East that imperialism, Zionism and reaction try to impose on Arab peoples.

Lebanese Concern

LD270909Y Moscow TASS in English 0645 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--The Lebanese public and the press feel concern and anxiety over Israel's intention to delay by all means implementation of the Security Council's decision on withdrawal of the aggressor's troops from the occupied Lebanese territories, Konstantin Geyvandov writes in PRAVDA.

Commenting on the position taken by Tel Aviv, the Beirut press puts to doubt the so-called "differences" between the United States and Israel the western press writes about after the recent American-Israeli negotiations. It is noted here that the United States obviously does not intend to exert any pressure in order to impel Israel to change its aggressive course.

The Lebanese press, writes the PRAVDA Beirut correspondent, calls for enlisting the world public opinion in order to exert pressure upon Israel to have it fulfil without delay the U.N. Security Council's decision on withdrawal of the occupation troops from the Lebanese land.

The situation in the Lebanon is alarming. Despite Tel Aviv authorities' declarations on a ceasefire, Israeli artillery is incessantly shelling the town of Nabatiyah, the area of Kawkab'a, the bridge across the Litani River and other targets which are outside the aggressor-occupied territory.

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST ISRAELI AGGRESSION, OPPRESSION

LD242056Y Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Amman, March 24 TASS--Broad demonstrations of protests are under way in Israel and on the occupied Western Bank of the River Jordan against the recent Israeli armed invasion of south Lebanon and the regime of occupation of Arab territories.

During the recent actions the Israeli authorities arrested hundreds of students who came out into the streets of towns and villages of the Western Bank and the Gaza sector. The young people demanded immediate withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon and from earlier-occupied Arab territories. Many of the participants in demonstrations were injured in clashes with police.

The "limbs of the law," declared that students, detained in the course of actions, and their parents will be released upon paying big fines.

Besides, the occupation authorities demand that every person released from prison should undertake to stay away from "demonstrations hostile to Israel". In towns of the Gaza sector the Israeli military tribunal puts to trial those who participated in actions of protest. Many boys and girls have already been sentenced to different terms in prison.

Wholesale arrests of pupils and students have given rise to indignation of teachers of schools, colleges and universities. About 100 teachers of different educational establishments of the Western Bank staged a three-hour sit-in strike at the premises of the International Red Cross Committee. It was held in protest against the Israeli authorities' campaign of repressions against the native Arab population, which is growing wider in Israel and the occupied Arab lands. The teachers demanded an end to persecution of the young people, the release of those detained, and immediate withdrawal of the Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

ISRAELI COMMUNIST PARTY CONDEMNS JOURNALISTS' TRIAL

LD251418Y Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Rome, March 25, TASS--The trial of Hans Lebrecht and Panayotis Paschalis on framed-up charges is a new act aimed against freedom of the press. It attests to the flouting of human rights in Israel, says a resolution of the recent plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel.

As it was already reported, the secretary of the association of fighters of the anti-Hitler front and victims of Nazism, journalist Hans Lebrecht, and correspondent of KHARAVYI, the newspaper of the Cyprus Communists, Panayotis Paschalis were arrested in January of this year on absurd charges of "encroachment on state security."

Staging this prosecution, the Israeli authorities pursue the aim of intimidating journalists who write truth about the policy conducted by the Israeli Government in occupied Arab lands and who declare for a just settlement in the Middle East, the resolution says.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel urges the entire progressive public, journalists and lawyers who are concerned with a new onslaught on democracy and human rights in Israel to come out in defence of the progressive journalists and to demand that this disgraceful trial be stopped.

USSR-GREEK RELATIONS REVIEWED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

LD241756Y Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--TASS commentator Sergey Dmitriyev writes:

On March 25, the Greek people celebrate their national day, the independence day. The revolution whose slogan was the struggle against foreign oppression, for national liberation and creation of an independent Greek state began in Greece 157 years ago. The Greek people invariably received Russia's assistance and support in this struggle. The Greek patriotic organisation Filiki Etairai created in its territory prepared the uprising of 1821. Thousands of Russian soldiers spilt their blood in the battles for freedom and independence of Greece. The successful combat operations of the Russian troops and Russia's diplomatic activity enabled Greek insurgent detachments to liberate almost the entire territory of their motherland and resulted in the creation of an independent state.

From the first days of its existence the Soviet state was building its relations with Greece on the policy of peace and friendship, equality, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs. Both states were among fighters against fascism during World War Two. The blood spilt and cooperation on those grim years became the vivid manifestation of the spiritual closeness of the Russian and Greek peoples, of their loyalty to the ideals of freedom and independence.

Great opportunities for widening and deepening Soviet-Greek relations opened after the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the implementation of the principles of the Helsinki conference. The contacts between the two countries have been constantly strengthening of late, their parliamentary and intergovernmental relations are being expanded, cultural, scientific and technical relations are widening. A long-term agreement between the USSR and Greece on further development of trade was signed, for instance, in 1977.

But the development of friendly relations of Greece with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries is not to the liking of all. Certain NATO circles would like to subjugate Greece's foreign and home policy to the interests that are alien to Greece, to draw it in military blocs and isolate it from its real friends. But the Greek people, loyal to the traditions of the struggle for freedom and independence, resolutely declare for the country quitting completely the North Atlantic bloc, for liquidation of United States and NATO military bases on its territory and for Greece conducting an independent foreign policy. Greece's active joining in the process of relaxation of international tensions, in consolidation of peace and cooperation with all countries meets genuine aspirations of the Greek people.

BRIEFS

MEETING MARKS GREEK HOLIDAY--Moscow, March 23, TASS--A meeting to mark the national holiday of the Greek people--independence day, was held today at the Moscow House of Friendship. The meeting was addressed by the ambassador of Greece to the USSR, Petros Kaloyeras. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD]

PLAN TO SPLIT AFRICA, CREATE MILITARY BLOCS CRITICIZED

LD240712Y Moscow TASS in English 0608 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

["A Threat to Africa"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--Facts show that a serious danger is threatening Africa, PRAVDA political commentator Yuriy Zhukov writes.

In effect, the issue is whether this continent will be united or not in the struggle to strengthen freedom and independence; whether African states will remain true to the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, based on concern for peace and international cooperation; whether the fundamental principle of inviolability of existing borders will remain in force in Africa or will Africa plunge into a bloodbath of struggle for the violent recarving of borders; whether Africa will advance along the road of strengthening collective security in which, naturally, it it will have the support of socialist and nonaligned states, or will it split up into "miniblocs" to great detriment to itself and to the delight of neocolonialists which are just waiting for this, the commentator stresses. He notes that the present development of events in Africa is a result of rude intrigues by the imperialists. "Divide and rule"--this old principle of the colonialists is again visible in the policy of the colonialists who want to return to Africa in a new attire.

Imperialists resort to most refined means in egging on the Africans, the article says. They whip up nationalistic sentiments, seek pliant leaders among feudals, tribal chieftains and the compradores bourgeoisie; use bribery and are full of promises of support to those who are prepared to heed their perfidious prompting.

It is becoming ever more obvious that there exists a dangerous imperialist plan of "forcing Africans to fight Africans," the commentator writes. One of the long-term imperialist aims, as before, is the plan to create a "south Atlantic pact" that would be an auxiliary NATO body in Africa.

Along with this, measures are being ever more openly taken to create in Africa a whole number of "miniblocs." In the process it is intended to split and crush the Organization of African Unity and thus deprive Africa's peoples of an important gain--cohesion in face of the imperialists.

China also participates in the implementation of the criminal plan to split Africa and create military-political groupings in that continent, Yuriy Zhukov stresses. The Chinese leaders see their "supertask" in subordinating the African countries and converting them into their henchmen in intrigues against the USSR. Interfering in African affairs with ever-greater importunity, the Peking leaders are cool and cynical calculators; Africa is far away from Peking, they reason, so they can kindle fires of military hostility there without any fear in their attempts to generate mistrust of African countries in countries of real socialism and to torpedo the relaxation of international tension.

"It must be hoped that African statesmen will display the necessary circumspection, strength of spirit and resolve to say a firm 'No' to those who are pushing them to the dangerous road of splitting this great continent," PRAVDA writes in conclusion.

Moose Trip

LD241902Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Africa 1430 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Western diplomacy lately has been resorting to more outright actions aimed at creating new blocs in Africa. Political observers connect, for instance, the trip of the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Richard Moose, to Mogadiscio with plans for organizing a military group in northeast Africa for obviating in that strategically important region of the Red Sea. [sentence as heard] Initially this special representative of the United States President intended to spend some 2 or 3 days in Mogadiscio; however, his departure was delayed under the pretext of working out agreement on deliveries of American weapons to Somalia.

The process of knocking together military-political groups in west Africa is also continuing. Moreover the Western powers are obviously trying to create joint armed forces and a joint military command made up of certain moderate states, as they are called in NATO. Judging from the statement made by the Belgian minister of foreign affairs they are also working on plans to create many more miniblocs, as the Western press calls them, in central Africa.

Speaking about the efforts being undertaken in the West for creating these so-called miniblocs one must not forget such a long-term plan of the imperialists as organizing a military bloc in the region of the south Atlantic. Its participants are to be the racist South Africa and certain reactionary regimes in South America. The South Atlantic pact is regarded in Western capitals as an additional organ of NATO in Africa. They are trying to create this bloc, notes the magazine AFRICA REPORT, not so much to get control over the sea routes around South Africa and South America as to control vast African territories south of the Tropic of Cancer.

All these examples of (?new actions) of the imperialist bloc policy are an indication that certain circles in the West are concocting a broad and dangerous conspiracy. They are striving to create and knock together certain obviously reactionary African and Arab regimes (?of) a military-political grouping of states. International imperialism would like to (?locate) such groups opposite those countries [words indistinct] active anti-imperialist and antiracist course is being pursued, and those forces which are waging a struggle for national liberation.

Moreover, they obviously have in mind to split and crush the Organization of African Unity, to deprive the peoples of Africa of their important gain--solidarity in the face of the imperialists. If such plots of the imperialists are carried out the idea of collective security of the African states lying at the basis of the Organization of African Unity all this would be nullified. This would make the beginning of an unrestricted arms race which, without (?doubt), funnels away limited material resources from the African peoples.

It is understandable that in such conditions this would (?greatly lead) to increasing tensions in interstate relations and this, without a doubt, would be fraught with (?any kind of conflict), and this would immediately lead to armed clashes between whole groups of African countries, and these clashes would be (?all the) more dangerous because the groupings were set up under the patronage of Western powers. [passage indistinct]

FURTHER MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

Somali Goals in Djibouti

LD2617147 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 26, TASS--A spokesman of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs came forward with an official statement which exposes the plan for complete or partial annexation of the Republic of Djibouti on the part of Somalia. According to the spokesman, the plan, as it became known, was specified during last week's talks in Mogadiscio between Richard Moose, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Somali leaders.

The statement points out that the plans of the enemies of Djibouti include the removal or political "neutralization" of the country's patriotic forces. That would ensure a transition of the state control to a certain alignment which would promote the realisation of the Somali-U.S. plan. It is being contemplated to provide a pretext for an interference by the Somali Army through stirring up inter-communal conflicts.

Ethiopia, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised, regards the further independent existence of the Republic of Djibouti within its present borders as an indispensable condition for peace and stability in the area of the Horn of Africa.

Southern Ethiopia Liberated

LD2418327 Moscow TASS in English 1822 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 24, TASS--The National Revolutionary Operations Command of Ethiopia has announced that units of regular army and people's militia have fully liberated southern areas of the country from Somali troops.

The last of the captured frontier towns, Bare, has been liberated, and at the given moment Ethiopia's Revolutionary Armed Forces fully control the situation in the southern theatre of military actions. Regular army and people's militia units are helping restore peaceful life in southern areas and are giving assistance to the war-affected civilian population.

MATERIAL ON CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ETHIOPIA VISIT

Communique Signed

LD2421027 Moscow TASS in English 1924 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 24, TASS--A lasting peace in the Horn of Africa will be established only after Somalia publicly renounces its claims to part of the territory of Ethiopia, Kenya and to Djibouti and ends its intervention in the internal affairs of those countries. This is pointed out in a joint Ethiopian-Cuban communique which has been published here. The communique was signed at the end of a visit to Ethiopia by the Cuban foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli.

The two sides strongly denounced the imperialist circles and reactionary Arab regimes for their support given to Somalia's unprovoked aggression against Ethiopia. They called for the strict observance of the internatinally recognized borders in Africa in keeping with the principles of the UN and OAU charters.

The line-up of forces on the world scene is favourable to the peoples fighting for socialism, national independence and progress. Much of the credit for that, the communique points out, goes to the firm stand adopted by the USSR and the other socialist countries. It is thanks to their position that it has become possible to pursue the policy of reducing tension. The two sides denounced military preparations by certain capitalist powers aimed at undermining this policy.

The communique expresses Ethiopia's gratitude for Cuba's assistance to the fighting Ethiopian people. It also voices confidence that the relations between the two countries will continue to expand and deepen on the basis of revolutionary solidarity.

Remarks to News Agency

LD250622Y Moscow TASS in English 0605 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 25, TASS--The cause of protection of the Ethiopian revolution, of Ethiopia's territorial integrity, is an internationalist duty of all revolutionary forces of the world, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli told the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY. He said the victory of the Ethiopian revolution is achievement of all African peoples, of all who are fighting for freedom and socialist transformations.

The minister said that Cuban technicians, builders, doctors and teachers will take an active part in the construction of new Ethiopia. The Ethiopian people, no doubt, will achieve new successes in various spheres of economic and cultural development, he said.

FRONTLINE STATES QUESTION ANGLO-U.S. PLAN FOR RHODESIA

LD261808Y Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Dar es Salaam, March 26, TASS--The presidents of Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania came out in support of an expansion of the just armed struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for the liberation of their motherland from racists' dominance. In the communique issued here at the close of a two-day conference, the leaders of the four "frontline" states are stating their invariable support for the armed struggle which is being conducted under the leadership of the Patriotic Front for the gaining of full independence and the creation of a genuine democratic government. This, however, does not exclude the way of talks. Taking part in the conference were also Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe.

The participants in the conference firmly declared against the agreement on "internal settlements", signed in Salisbury early in March by the leader of the Rhodesian regime, Smith, and three African puppet figures. So-called governing body--an Executive Council--is known to have been set up within the framework of that agreement. The "front-line" states and the Patriotic Front, the communique emphasises, fully and unreservedly condemn that agreement.

The participants in the meeting called on the Organisation of African Unity, all progressive and anti-colonial forces of the world to support the Zimbabwe people's national-liberation struggle and the demands for further isolation of the illegal racist-minority regime. They also called on the international community to increase and broaden the UN sanctions against Rhodesia.

The communique criticises Britain's and the United States' ambiguous attitude taken up by them towards the "internal settlement" agreement. As is known, the UN Security Council declared illegal and unacceptable the attempts by the racist regime of Smith to retain its dominance behind the new screen. But Britain, the USA and other Western powers which seek to keep their economic and political positions in Rhodesia abstained from voting on that resolution, and a spokesman of the British Foreign Office directly stated that London was ready to deal de facto with the "Executive Council" set up in Salisbury.

Journalistic circles draw attention to the activity which was displayed during the conference by Andrew Young, permanent representative of the USA at the United Nations, who arrived in Dar es Salaam. What was the Washington emissary seeking to achieve here? The opinion of local observers is that as a short-term goal U.S. diplomacy is trying to persuade, through the tactics of procrastinations, the "front-line" states into giving up supporting the Zimbabwe patriots' struggle and to bring about differences between them. This tactic already enabled Smith to gain time and start realising his plan, one of the links of which is the announcement of the setting up of the "Executive Council".

As a long-term goal Washington seeks to impose on independent Africa and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe any modification of the Anglo-American "settlement" plan under which the West would retain control over the territory for a long period of time. The communique issued by the participants in the conference demands that Britain and the USA explicitly state whether that plan of theirs remains in force.

SECRET FUND HAS BEEN SET UP TO AID UNITA, PAPER SAYS

LD261300Y Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, March 26, TASS--Imperialist forces in the West and the reactionary Arab regimes set up a secret fund for assistance to the antipopular splitters' grouping UNITA, which has not given up attempts to launch an armed attack on the lawful government of the People's Republic of Angola. According to a report in today's OBSERVER, the sum of the fund is estimated at ten million sterling. These funds will be used for financing gangs of UNITA. Among the countries that set up the fund the newspaper mentions Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and some other countries.

NIGERIAN DECREE ON NATIONALIZATION OF ENTERPRISES ISSUED

LD261347Y Moscow TASS in English 1221 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Lagos, March 26, TASS--The Nigerian authorities resolutely declared against sabotaging of orders of the Nigerian Federal Government by foreign companies that try to ignore the decree on Africanisation in the sphere of economy. An official statement of the council for assistance to the transfer of enterprises to Nigerians stresses that the property of those foreign companies that do not comply with the requirements of the decree will be confiscated and turned over to the state. The decree envisages a gradual establishment of national control over enterprises of the heavy industry, energetics, transport and commerce.

SLCP JONGRESS ENDS, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED

LD262352Y Moscow TASS in English 2028 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

["Keynoted by Unity and Cohesion"--TASS headline]

[Text] Colombo, March 26, TASS--The Tenth Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka [SLCP] ended its work today by electing a new composition of the party's Central Committee.

On the Central Committee are 35 persons including Peter Keuneman, S.A. Wickremasinghe and others. Also elected are fifteen candidate members of the Central Committee, the new composition of the Control Commission and Auditing Commission. The first meeting of the new Central Committee is to be held on April 8-9. It will elect a general secretary, chairman and other leaders of the SLCP. Until that time, the duties of the general secretary of the party's Central Committee and the party's chairman will be performed by Peter Keuneman and S.A. Wickremasinghe respectively.

The delegates to the congress unanimously endorsed resolutions which emphasize the necessity of unity and cohesion of the world communist and working-class movement on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and point out that the SLCP consistently and firmly comes out for the maintenance and consolidation of this unity. The delegates declared for the resolute and consistent exposure of Maoism and other "theories" incompatible with Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

A separate resolution of the congress points out that the Sri Lanka Communists join in the protest of all the progressive forces of the earth that come out against the neutron bomb production plans. The intention of the U.S. administration to start a mass production of neutron weapons is fraught with serious consequences for the whole of mankind, the resolution says. That intention undermines the process of international detente and inevitably leads to a new spiral of the arms race. The congress of the SLCP demands that the Government of Sri Lanka at the U.N. General Assembly's forthcoming session on disarmament firmly condemn the U.S. neutron bomb production plans.

The congress of the SLCP, says another resolution expresses satisfaction with the fact that the aggression which was unleashed against Ethiopia with the support of the forces of imperialism sustained a destructive defeat. The congress highly appreciates the friendly help which was rendered to Ethiopia by the Soviet Union, Cuba and other socialist countries, displaying an example of true internationalism.

The Tenth Congress of the SLCP, was held in the spirit of constructiveness and good organization, in an atmosphere of high activity. It became an important landmark in the strengthening of the party's ranks. The congress's decisions will make a substantial contribution to the further development of the [Sri] Lanka Communists' struggle in defence of the rights and interests of the country's working people.

SINO-JAPANESE TALKS IN APRIL PROMPT CONCERN

LD242224Y Moscow TASS in English 2043 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

["Dangerous Bridge"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tokyo, March 24, TASS--Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda has decided to resume the Japanese-Chinese talks on concluding the so-called "peace and friendship treaty." The talks were suspended in late 1975. To this end, the foreign minister, Sunao Sonoda, is to go to Peking in mid-April for a series of meetings with Chinese leaders.

Takeo Fukuda's decision shows that certain quarters in Japan are beginning to give in to Peking's unscrupulous pressure. Peking is seeking to include an article into the treaty directed against the Soviet Union and thus trying to draw Japan into its anti-Soviet strategy.

This imprudent approach is opposed and condemned by realistically-minded politicians even within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party itself.

A group of Liberal Democrats headed by a prominent party leader, H. Nadao, has sent a message to the prime minister urging him to display extreme circumspection in concluding the treaty with China. If the Japanese-Chinese treaty is concluded in a hurry, the message points out, it will spell serious complications in the future. That is why the problem should be approached with extreme caution.

Former minister of agriculture and forestry, M. Akagi, has also spoken out against the hasty conclusion of the treaty with China. He said it was necessary to take into account the consequences the step might entail for the relations with the Soviet Union.

The MAINICHI newspaper points out that China persists in the drive to include the clause on the joint action against "hegemony" into the projected treaty. The paper says, however, that this inclusion is tantamount to taking action against the Soviet Union because the present leadership in China proceeds from the concept: "The USSR is the main enemy." The newspaper underlines that if Japan wants to preserve friendly relations with all countries she must act very cautiously on the problem of concluding the Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship" treaty.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN newspaper points out that while demanding concessions from Japan alone China is stubbornly holding on to her own line and pressing for the conclusion of a treaty on her terms. The paper notes that Japan should not toe the Chinese line. She should not agree to an alliance based on Peking's anti-Soviet strategy.

The DAYAMONDO weekly criticises those who speak out for concluding the treaty with China on condition that each side will be interpreting the clause on "hegemony" in its own way. The weekly feels that this position fails to hold water. If China succeeds in getting the clause included into the treaty, the weekly says, she will be imposing her own interpretation of the article on Japan and will demand that Japan should take part in the joint action. The treaty with China, DAYAMONDO notes, is like a shaky foot-bridge thrown across an abyss. Anyone standing on such a foot-bridge of dubious strength may fall into the abyss any minute. The weekly warns that the conclusion of that treaty will produce no benefits to Japan and can only bring a catastrophe on her.

COMMUNIQUE REVEALS FAILURE OF JAPANESE-EEC TRADE TALKS

LD241334Y Moscow TASS in English 1313 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 24, TASS--Talks between Japan and a delegation of the Common Market countries on commercial and economic problems ended here. They were held in the atmosphere of considerable differences. The sides failed to agree on the main item, the balancing of trade between Japan and the EEC. A joint communique that was published does not contain any specific commitments of Tokyo to reduce its exports to the West European market and increase its import from the EEC countries on which West European representatives insisted. The communique merely says that the Japanese side promised to consider the measures to reduce its huge trade surplus by one third in the 1978 financial year.

CIA REPORT ON JAPAN'S NUCLEAR ARMS DEVELOPMENT CITED

LD241716Y Moscow TASS in English 1642 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

["Well-Founded Suspicions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--TASS political commentator Askold Biryukov writes:

The question whether a decision to equip the country's armed forces with nuclear weapons, if adopted, would be "constitutional" is being ever more actively discussed in Japan lately.

Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda stated the possibility of the adoption of such a decision when he addressed on March 8 the Budget Commission of parliament's higher chamber. Virtually the next day his stand was given the official backing of the government's unanimous opinion". The representatives of the military circles and the business world went even further. Thus, the head of the military establishment's defence department, Keichi Ito, intimated that for the sake of acquiring nuclear weapons Japan is even prepared to cancel its signature under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty that it ratified less than two years ago.

Writing in the London DAILY MIRROR some days ago, John Pilger shed some light on the motivations of the noisy propaganda campaign that has been launched to accustom the Japanese people, who have lived through the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the thought about the possibility of the country's acquisition of atomic weapons. The journalist described a report of the CIA, that was kept in total secrecy until recently, from which it follows that Japan may be on the threshold of adopting a decision to produce atomic bombs. As contended by the authors of the report, such a decision may be adopted already in the early 1980's and even earlier in the event of a further spread of nuclear weapons in the world and a condecending attitude to this process by technically advanced countries.

According to the Tokyo JAPAN TIMES, Japan has already expressed readiness to conclude relevant contracts with firms in Britain and France. It would foot half of the bill of plants for the processing of nuclear fuel wastes in exchange for deliveries of plutonium extracted from these wastes.

While pressing the United States, Britain and France, to provide it with technology and equipment for these aims, Japan has already started the production of plutonium on its own. This was reported on March 21 at a meeting of the House Committee on International Relations of the U.S. Congress [by] Stephen Solarz. He said that Japan was already producing plutonium in amounts sufficient for the manufacture of 200 units of nuclear weapons.

It is not being concealed in Japanese military circles that they need the "nuclear teeth" that some people would like to give to Japan's armed forces that have been recreated after the war, in order to "make an impression" on neighbouring states. But these are by no means far-sighted plans. Moreover, they are dangerous plans, first of all for Japan itself. The path of military preparations and sabre-rattling--all this means playing with fire. Such a policy will not bring Japan any laurels, on the contrary, it will generate suspicions about the true aims and interests pursued by it in Asia.

INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT BEGIN MILITARIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

OW250949Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 24 Mar 78 OW

[Georgiy Krasin commentary]

[Text] A growing concern over military issues has been observed in Japan recently. Through newspaper articles and radio and television commentaries, persistent efforts are being made to convince the Japanese people that the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] should be reinforced, military spending increased and the alliance with the United States strengthened. Some people even issued an appeal that Japan should have nuclear weapons.

The general purpose of this propaganda campaign is to psychologically prepare Japanese public opinion for the country's militarization. Kanemaru, director general of the Self-Defense Agency, presented a new doctrine regarding the SDF in one of his recent statements, and his doctrine should be reviewed precisely from this viewpoint. The doctrine essentially states that it is time for Japan to be a military threat to its so-called neighboring enemies and make them feel the menace of the SDF.

Director General Kanemaru further developed his doctrine in a militaristic remark he made last week during a commencement exercise speech at the defense college in Yokosuka. During the exercise, a member of an ultrarightist group distributed handbills carrying provocative and chauvinist slogans. It was a very typical incident.

Kurisu, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also supports the theory advocating Japan's accelerated militarization. In an interview published in the WING magazine, he said: In every war, only offense produced victory. Against any offensive, no effective counterattack can be carried out by only defensive means.

In support of these defence agency leaders, other officials in Japan are saying Japan can have nuclear weapons, and to do so is not unconstitutional.

Their dangerous plans are supported by a handful of business leaders who are trying to profit from military orders. Inayama, president of the Japan Steel Industries Association, said in November 1977 that it would be impossible to overcome the economic recession without a war. Other people made statements calling for an increase in arms production and the removal of export restrictions.

The United States and South Korea recently conducted a joint military exercise which was nothing but a military provocation against the DPRK. During the exercise, it was revealed that the U.S. military base at Yokota, Japan, was used as a relay base for the shipment of the nuclear-capable Lance missile from the U.S. mainland to South Korea. The danger that Japan will be drawn into a dispute unrelated to the people's desire for peace is thus added to the attempts to shape Japanese public opinion.

Manipulation of public opinion and cooperation with the U.S. military are not the only methods that the ardent advocates of Japan's rearmament have adopted. They are also taking practical steps to implement their plans. Compared with last year, military spending will increase 25 percent and surpass the 2-trillion-yen level in 1979. Another 50 percent increase is scheduled in 1982. Furthermore, Japan has decided to spend a total of 1.1 trillion yen to buy 100 F-15 fighter-bombers and 45 antisubmarine patrol planes from the United States. Ishikawajima-Harima and Kawasaki heavy industries companies are expected to receive orders totaling than 300 billion-yen to build four aircraft carriers in the near future.

Advocates of Japan's militarization are trying to increase their influence over the government. For this purpose, a special research center was established to study Japan's defense problems at the initiative of the Federation of Economic Organizations and a number of activists within the Liberal Democratic Party. In its first report prepared for "Japan Corporation," the center unequivocally called for an increase in Japan's war potential and expansion of its defense capabilities.

Authors of this report repeated the old militaristic slogans regarding Japan's leading role in Asia and the Pacific. This kind of clamor is inevitably arousing apprehension among Southeast Asian nations. As Prime Minister Fukuda admitted after his tour of Southeast Asia last summer, these nations still retain a bitter memory of the wartime occupation by the Japanese. They fear the emergence of a new version of the so-called greater East Asia co-prosperity sphere.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP GROUP--The Association of Japanese Listeners of Radio Moscow held a meeting in Tokyo 21 March to mark its third anniversary. In his speech, association chairman Toshiaki Shinohara reviewed the association's activities and stressed that its purpose was to promote mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the Soviet Union. Soviet Ambassador Polyanskiy made a congratulatory speech expressing his conviction that the association would actively strive to strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between the two nations. At the meeting, prizes were presented to the winners of an essay contest on Japanese-Soviet friendship. An entertainment program and the showing of a Soviet documentary film followed. [Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW]

KOSYGIN ENDS TYUMEN, TOMSK VISIT, LEAVES FOR KRASNOYARSK

LD241528Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] From 22 to 24 March Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, was in Tyumenskaya and Tomskaya oblasts, where he visited a number of enterprises. He took part in conferences of leaders of oblast party and administrative organs and of specialists of the oil, gas and petrochemical industry. Questions of the long-term development of the economies of Tyumenskaya and Tomskaya oblasts were reviewed. At a meeting of the party, administrative and economic aktiv of Tyumenskaya Oblast, Comrade Kosygin described the work being carried out in the country to implement the tasks laid down in the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the speeches of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Presidium, at the December party plenum.

Today, Comrade Kosygin and those accompanying him left for Krasnoyarsk.

BREZHNEV BOOK ILLUSTRATES PARTY'S CARE FOR TRADE UNIONS

LD261400Y Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--The publishing of the collection of works of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev "Soviet Trade Unions in the Conditions of Developed Socialism" is another vivid manifestation of the party's care for trade unions, for consolidation of ideological and theoretical basis of their many-faceted activity in the name of communism, the Soviet trade union newspaper TRUD writes today.

This book is a collection of reports, speeches and messages of greeting that Leonid Brezhnev made from November 1964 to November 1977. They are arranged in the chronological order. He analyses in these reports and speeches the vital problems of the development and activity of Soviet trade unions at the present stage.

Leonid Brezhnev's works offer an example of creative approach to the Leninist teaching, its further development and enrichment. The entire collection from the first page to the last is keynoted by the idea of the possibility and necessity of developing the theory at the new historic stage, the newspaper writes.

The collection provides a most detailed analysis of the role of the trade unions in economy, the main sphere of society's life. Summing up all that was said about the economic role of the trade unions, it is possible to set out the following main directions of their activity: concern for enhancing effectivity of production, improving quality of output, work in all sections of the national economy.

A number of documents show what importance is attached by the party to international activity of the Soviet trade unions. Analysed in the collection are the processes in the world working class and trade union movement. The conclusion is made about the need of further consolidation of its unity in the struggle for social progress, peace and security of nations. The book's author stresses that favourable conditions for establishing cooperation between different trends of the working class movement, both on a national and international scale, are being formed now.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

OFFICIALS ATTEND CONFERENCE ON RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION

LD242204Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A conference took place today at the CPSU Central Committee with the participation of heads of ministries and departments and chiefs of railroads. The conference examined practical measures for further increasing the efficiency of railroad transportation work in light of the 25th party congress decisions, the December 1977 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the provisions and conclusions contained in the speech at that plenum by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. At the conference a speech was made by Kirilenko, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The attention of the leaders of the Ministry of Railroads was drawn to the need for implementing decisive measures for an upsurge in the operational work of railroad transportation; for insuring a steady and accurate rhythm of train traffic; for punctual dispatch and delivery to consumers of all specified freight, and also for more fully statisfying the transportation demands of the national economy and the population.

Particular attention was devoted to introducing up-to-date technology, new machinery and foremost experience; to mobilizing reserves, and to improving the use of the technical means of transportation, mechanization of cargo operations, rationalization of freight transportation as well as improving planning and freight transportation communications. Attention was drawn to improving the style and method of management and to insuring a high level of organization and discipline in all areas of railroad transportation. Emphasis was placed on the need to further strengthen the business-like cooperation and coordinated work of all types of transportation and enhance the role of ocean, river, road and rail transportation in transporting freight. It was indicated that the experience of the unified technological process being used at the Leningrad transportation center should be extensively applied. It was also noted that there is a need to improve industrial transportation work and that the railroads should receive assistance from ministries and departments.

Taking part in the conference were CPSU Central Committee Secretaries Kapitonov, Dolgikh, Kyabov; deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers Kirillin, Lesechko, Martynov; chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments; secretaries of the central committees of the communist parties of the union republics and a number of kray and oblast party committees; USSR and RSFSR ministers; responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus.

BRIEFS

DUKAT ORE MINE PROBLEMS--According to a report from Omsukchan, particular attention is being paid to the construction of the factory at the Dukat ore mining complex. The factory was begun 10 years ago; to date, more than 11 million rubles have been spent on construction. However, some serious shortcomings have been noted, and Dukat construction workers have failed to fulfill the plan for the first 2 months of 1978. A lack of regular personnel and joinery products is hindering completion of the main structures and there have been interruptions in the supply of reinforced steel, metal frames and rods, while lack of coordination in the choice of materials is causing a waste of labor. Furthermore, the lack of heating devices is delaying concreting work, and the quality of concrete and mortar is unsatisfactory. Construction workers have appealed to the Severeovostokstroy Association and supervisors of mobile mechanized Column No 25 to overcome these shortcomings as soon as possible. [Magadan Domestic Service in Russian 0745 GMT 3 Mar 78 OW]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL NEWS 22-25 MAR

LD250558 [Editorial Report LD/WA] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0100 GMT on 22 March reports that more than 6 million tons of organic fertilizer have been spread on the fields of Novosibirskaya Oblast. This is 1.8 million tons above plan.

At 0830 GMT, the radio reports that early grain crop sowing has begun in the Kuban. The radio adds that nearly 2 million hectares have to be sown to spring crops in the region this spring. Sugarbeet sowing is beginning. The radio also reports that sowing is in progress in five oblasts of Kazakhstan. Grain crops have been sown on 50,000 hectares so far in Dzhambulskaya Oblast. The entire spring grain crop area of 240,000 hectares will be sown in 6-7 days.

At 0500 GMT On 23 March, the radio reports that the top-dressing of winter cereal crops has been carried out on 250,000 hectares in Kirgizia. Despite difficult weather conditions spring crop sowing is underway there and the first few thousands of hectares have already been sown. The same broadcast adds that harrowing and moisture retention work is underway in the southern parts of Voroshilovgradskaya Oblast and that the beet-growers of Checheno-Ingushskaya are working on their spring sowing. The radio also notes that all agricultural machinery has now been overhauled in the Tatarskaya Republic and that 80 percent of the tractors are ready. In Smolenskaya Oblast the mutual checking of farms' preparations for the spring has been completed.

At 1100 GMT on 23 March, the radio reports that mass spring work is underway in Armenia. Sowing of early potatoes is completed in the Ararat Valley with more than 10,000 hectares sown. Armenian rural workers possess pledges to provide the state with more than 240,000 tons of grapes and 120,000 tons of fruit this year.

At 0500 GMT on 24 March the radio reports that the selective cotton sowing is underway in Uzbekistan where an area of 1.8 million hectares is assigned to this crop. The radio also reports that many farms in Rostovskaya Oblast have completed their sowing of grain crops. The same broadcast also reports that Dagestanskaya Republic farms are sowing sunflowers. Also in Dagestanskaya, early grain crops have been sown in 12,000 hectares.

At 1540 GMT on 24 March the radio reports that spring sowing has been carried out on 600,000 hectares in northern Caucasus. A third of this area is in Rostovskaya Oblast.

At 1100 GMT on 25 March, the radio reports that spring has come fairly early to the fields of the southern USSR. In a number of places fieldwork began in February or at the beginning of March. However, work has frequently been cut short by bad weather. At the moment, the sowing of lucerne, oats, barley, sugar beet and other crops is in progress in the Central Asian republics, the Transcaucasus and in southern Kirgizia and Kazakhstan. The report also notes that in southern Uzbekistan sowing of corn and cotton has begun. This year the area sown to cotton, particularly fine-fiber strains, and to corn and perennial grasses, is being increased on farms in the Central Asian republics. The report also notes that in Uzbekistan, cereal [zernovoy] corn on irrigated lands will occupy 52,000 more hectares than last year, when nearly 70 quintals per hectare of grain were harvested. In the southern cereal areas of European USSR, the Ukraine, the Northern Caucasus and Moldavia, top-dressing of winter crops and soil preparation are underway; in a number of areas, early crop sowing has begun. In the central regions of European USSR, the liming of the soil is continuing. After the snow has disappeared from the fields top-dressing of winter crops with mineral fertilizers will be carried out. In a number of areas fields are being drained of excessive water from melted snow in order to protect the winter crops.

COSMONAUTS ROMANENKO, GRECHKO MEET WITH DOCTORS

LD232116Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Mar 78 LD

[Text] It is exactly a week today since Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko returned to earth. At the Baykonur Cosmodrome they met doctors and representatives of medical science. The cosmonauts answered numerous questions and talked about their sensations and feelings during their launch into orbit and the period of adaptation to weightlessness. At the request of the physicians they made remarks and expressed wishes concerning the planning of the work regime on such a lengthy flight [words indistinct]. At the present time Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have begun--together with Aleksey Gubarev and Vladimir Remek--to prepare a detailed report on the work onboard the station of the world's first international crew.

METEOROLOGICAL ROCKETS TO BE LAUNCHED IN ATLANTIC

LD241252Y Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 24, TASS--Soviet geophysicists plan to launch a series of meteorological rockets in seven points of the central Atlantic. The probing of the atmopshere will be done from board research vessel Professor Vize, which has started on an expedition from Leningrad today. Head of the expedition, Professor Gor Ivanov-Kholodniy, a noted expert in the field of atmospheric physics, said that it is not by chance that the air basin over the central part of the Atlantic Ocean has been chosen for rocket probing. It is a place of intensive heat exchanges between water and the atmosphere, where powerful streams of air are formed and then influence the weather and climate in a considerable part of North America and Eurasia.

Soviet meteorological rockets carrying research equipment can reach an altitude of 80 kilometres. They practically reach the boundaries of outer space and report back to the earth data about the structure and dynamics of the earth's atmosphere. The whole research data will be processed in computers on board the ship. The professor stressed that Soviet geophysicists will share the results of their observations with their American colleagues.

EARTHQUAKE STRIKES MOUNTAINS IN KIRGIZIA 25 MAR

LD251538Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1444 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Frunze, 25 March--At 0006 Moscow time today, there was an earthquake in the mountainous regions of Kirgizia and Kazakhstan. At the epicenter, in the northeastern part of Issyk-Kulskaya Oblast, the force was registered at over 7 points; in Frunze, it was 5 points. Underground shocks of up to 6 were also recorded in Alma-Ata. In the areas near the epicenter there was damage to houses, animal husbandry buildings and other facilities. There were no casualties.

In the view of Soviet scientists, this earthquake was related to tectonic processes taking place in the Tien Shan mountains. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1900 GMT on 26 March broadcasts a TASS correspondent's report from Frunze which notes that "the seismic activity at the epicenter of yesterday's earthquake on the slopes of the Kungey-Alatau ridge is continuing. After the initial shock of about 8 points, another four aftershocks were registered, each of 4-5 points. A powerful secondary shock of 6 points was noted at 1151 Moscow time. Investigations are underway by an expedition from the Institute of Seismology of the Kirgiz Academy of Sciences. The expedition includes seismologists, geophysicists, geologists and hydrochemists."]

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